

# Idaho Employment

A monthly newsletter of the Idaho Department of Labor

**IDAHO**  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LABOR.IDAHO.GOV

Volume 19.9

October 2007 Issue / August 2007 Data

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## State Overview

### AUGUST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EDGES UP TO 2.4 PERCENT

Labor force data for the state, labor market areas, counties and cities can be found in State Table 2 on page 5.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly in August to 2.4 percent to remain near the record low set earlier this summer and a full percentage point below a year earlier. This was the third in the previous four months that Idaho's unemployment rate had been the lowest or tied for the lowest in the nation. Montana and Idaho ranked number one in May with an unemployment rate of 2.3 percent. In June Idaho was number three with an unemployment rate of 2.4 percent behind Montana and Hawaii at 2.3 percent. In July Idaho was number one again at 2.3 percent and stayed number one in August at 2.4 percent.

The August rate continued the historic streak of 28 straight months of unemployment rates below 4 percent, and 71 months below the national rate, which remained unchanged at 4.6 percent. That was a tenth of a percentage point below August 2006.

The new employment figures underscored the apparent overestimation of both the labor force and total employment across Idaho in July. Based on those July figures, total employment in the state fell 5,000 in August, which would be the first employment decline between July and August since 1997.

In August there were 740,500 people working throughout Idaho. While down from the July figure, it was 4,100 more than in June, which follows the pattern of past years and indicates the state economy remains among the strongest in the nation. Compared to a year earlier, 13,500 more people were working in Idaho in August.

The ranks of the unemployed rose by over 500 to 17,900, only the third monthly increase in 2007. The layoff of 1,100 workers at Micron Technology in Boise has yet to have a significant impact on employment statistics, indicating that many of those workers quickly found new jobs in Idaho's tight labor market or have not sought unemployment assistance.

The Conference Board, a national economic research organization, reported that during August Idaho employers were trying to fill over 22,000 jobs in a state where fewer than 15,000 workers were unemployed. Only Montana had a smaller ratio of unemployed to unfilled jobs.

There were over 7,300 fewer people unemployed in August than in August 2006, but it appears the number of unemployed may be leveling out. It has been between 17,000 and 18,000 all summer.

Power County's unemployment rate of 7.4 percent was the highest in the state, the result of a short layoff at a major food processing facility. Clearwater was the only other county with an unemployment rate at or above 5 percent with 5.4 percent.

### WAGE REPORT AVAILABLE

Idaho's 2007 wage survey report is available online at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov). Read the overview starting on page 2.

## AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Grangeville Small Labor Market Area reported an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent, the highest of the 10 labor market areas around the state. Although the unemployment rate was up from July, it was significantly below the August 2006 rate of 6.3 percent. The Grangeville region also had the highest unemployment rate in August 2006.

There are 369 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the nation for which the unadjusted unemployment rate is published each month. The Idaho Falls metro area for the second consecutive month reported the lowest unadjusted unemployment rate in the United States at 1.6 percent. Coeur d'Alene ranked second at 1.8 percent and the Boise metro area was fourth at 2 percent.

## COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Only three of the 44 counties in the state reported unemployment rates of 9 percent or more, and Power was the only county with a double-digit rate at 10.8 percent. The other two counties, Clearwater and Benewah, frequently are in the top five. Clearwater at 9.7 percent was below the 11.1 percent experienced in August 2005. It was the only county in double digits a year earlier. Benewah at 9.3 percent was down from 9.8 percent in July but above the 8.7 percent reported in August 2005. The economies of these countries rely heavily on natural resources – agriculture, timber and mining.

Fourteen counties recorded unemployment rates below 2 percent in August, up from 10 in July. The August rates in those counties ranged from 1.9 percent in Boise, Jefferson and Twin Falls counties to 1.2 percent in Owyhee and Teton counties.

## NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Nonfarm jobs rebounded in August to 663,600 following a drop in July. The August activity followed normal seasonal patterns and reflected monthly gains from February through June before July's loss of 4,500 jobs, primarily from public school payrolls. Those jobs will not be recovered until September when the new school year begins. Still the addition of 2,300 jobs in August was positive, even if it was entirely in the service sector. There were gains on the goods-production side of the economy, but they were more than offset by the 1,100 layoffs at Micron Technology in Boise.

Nonfarm jobs have increased year over year since 2002 when the layoffs in the electronics industry had such a negative impact. However, the growth in August 2007 is less than half of what has occurred the last two years, and this slowdown in the overall growth is a direct reflection of the slowdown in construction activity. For the first time since August 2003, construction jobs declined from the prior year. This follows two years of more than 10 percent growth.

## MORE AUGUST 2006 TO AUGUST 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- Retail trade has added 5,400 jobs, 2,100 in general merchandise stores. The growth has been in smaller shopping centers across the state that include national chains such as Kohl's, Target, Petco, Dress Barn, Costco, Old Navy and Bed, Bath and Beyond.
- Administrative and support services have added 3,000 jobs. These are primarily in the areas of employment placement and temporary help agencies, janitorial and landscaping services.

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*IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this specific publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to:*

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- Food services and drinking places have added 2,500 jobs. The majority of these jobs were in full service restaurants which not only include sit down facilities but also fast food restaurants. There are a lot of new franchises opening around the state like Sonic, Taco Del Mara, Olive Garden and Subway.
- Manufacturing reported the greatest loss of jobs in the last 12 months – 2,300. The sectors hit were food processing, specialty foods and computer and electronics manufacturing. The loss of processing jobs varies between July and August depending on when the potato processing plants shut down for annual maintenance. This year Con Agra in American Falls was one of the companies that had its summer layoff in August. The 1,100 workers laid off at Micron Technology in Boise also had an impact on the year-to-year numbers.

### ANNUAL WAGE SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

Idaho's estimated median hourly wage in 2006 was \$13.47, up 3.3 percent from 2005, according to Idaho Department of Labor's 2007 Occupational Employment & Wage Survey Report. Another wage measure is the average hourly wage. In 2006 the median wage was \$16.73 compared to \$16.12 in 2005, a 3.83 percent increase. Median is the midpoint – 50 percent of the wages are below and 50 percent are above. Average is an arithmetic mean and is heavily influence by large numbers of very high or very low wages. For analysis, the Idaho Department of Labor uses the median or midpoint because it is less influenced by extreme highs and lows. Results of the wage survey are available on the agency's Web site at [imi@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:imi@labor.idaho.gov). Information on how to access the report is provided at the end of this article. The annual survey compiles wage data collected from employers for 22 major occupational groups representing data for an estimated 624,320 workers. The continuing increase in the state's wage is another indication of economic growth in 2006.

There is a major change in this year's results. Instead of data for six regions, the survey results are expanded to nine regions. Northern Idaho has been expanded to provide information for the Coeur d'Alene Metropolitan Statistical Area, the Lewiston metro area and northern Idaho excluding those two areas. Data for the eastern part of the state now includes the Idaho Falls metro area along with the Pocatello metro area and eastern Idaho excluding those two areas. Because the number of areas and their configuration has changed, the wages from prior surveys cannot be directly compared.

Appendix C is new this year. It is a comparison of the median wage of the state and cross regions. This appendix will provide a quick reference on how wages for a particular occupation compare across the state. For example, the median wage for Food Service Managers varies across regions as show in State Table 1.

This year wages for education occupations are included in the state and regional tables rather than in a

**State Table 1: Wage Survey Results — Median Wages**

	Median Wage
<b>STATE</b>	<b>\$14.15</b>
Coeur d'Alene MSA	\$20.21
Lewiston MSA	\$17.36
North Idaho excluding Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston MSA	\$10.44
Boise City - Nampa MSA	\$15.63
Southwest Idaho excluding Boise City - Nampa MSA	\$13.08
South Central Idaho	\$13.58
Pocatello MSA	\$11.83
Idaho Falls MSA	\$13.26
Southeast Idaho excluding Pocatello and Idaho Falls MSA	\$12.30

separate appendix. The data is reported as annual rather than hourly because the number of hours worked vary, and the wages cannot be uniformly converted to an hourly rate.

### READING THE PUBLICATION

The publication consists of the three sections.

**Introduction** provides job and data definitions, describes the survey methodology used and provides information on how to interpret and use the wage data.

**Wage Tables** include wage tables for nine geographic areas and a cross regional index. The state of Idaho table provides data based on all 44 counties. The Coeur d'Alene table provides data based on the Coeur d'Alene metro area, which includes Kootenai County. The Lewiston table provides data based on the Lewiston area, which includes Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash. Northern Idaho excluding Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston provides data on the remaining eight northern counties. The Boise-Nampa metro area provides data based on Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem and Owyhee counties in southwestern Idaho. Southwestern Idaho excluding the metro area provides data based on the remaining five southwestern counties. South central Idaho provides data based on the eight counties in that region. The Pocatello metro area provides data based on Bannock and Power counties in eastern Idaho. The Idaho Falls area provides data based on Bonneville and Jefferson counties. The eastern Idaho table excluding Pocatello and Idaho Falls provides data on the other 12 counties in eastern Idaho. In each of these tables, estimated employment, the average wage, entry wage, median wage and middle-range wage levels are provided in occupational code order. The last table provides the average wage for each occupation for the state and the six regions.

**Appendices** — Appendix A provides an alphabetical listing of occupations for locating specific job titles. Appendix B provides the same data as the wage tables

but for general and operations managers (code 11-1201) by industry for the state and six regions. Appendix C is a cross region comparison of the median wage by occupation.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site — [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) — contains a table for each occupation with employment, mean and median hourly wage, mean annual wage and the mean relative standard error. Data on this Web site is available for all states and all metropolitan areas.

Data specific to Idaho can be accessed at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov). The data are available for the state and the nine geographic areas in Excel and PDF format.

## WAGE DATA

Wage data are collected on a standardized form used by all states. This allows the wage data to be compared not only from region to region in Idaho but state to state.

## SOC SYSTEM

The coding system used to collect and release the data is the Standard Occupational Classification system. This system is used by all federal statistical agencies for reporting occupational data. The SOC system consists of 821 detailed occupations grouped into 449 broad occupations, 96 minor groups and 22 major groups. The Occupational Employment Statistics program provides occupational employment and wage data at the major group level and detailed occupation level.

## WAGE TERMS

There are four basic terms used in the wage survey.

**Average (Mean)** — a measure of central tendency that represents the sum of the values of the observations divided by the number of observation; it also is known as the arithmetic average or commonly referred to as the average.

**Midpoint (Median)** — a measure of central tendency that is not sensitive to values that are far removed or outlying the others and which have no effect on the mean. The median represents the value at which one-half of the observations fall below it and one-half are above it and is commonly referred to as the midpoint.

**Middle range** — a term used to describe the range of wages paid to the middle 50 percent of the workers in a specific occupation. This means that one-fourth of the employees are earning wages below the low end of the middle range and one-fourth of the employees are earning wages above the high end. This range provides the user with information regarding the variance of pay within an occupation. It is a measure of where 50 percent of the wage rates fall.

**Entry wage** — a term that refers to the average wage paid to those in the bottom third of workers in an occupation. This is an imputed wage measure rather than a surveyed measure.

**Pay ranges** — Employers are asked to report their number of employees by occupational classification and by pay range. Only wage and salary-type compensation data are included in the survey results. Fringe benefits costs, overtime, bonuses, incentive pay and other non-wage earnings are not included. The pay ranges are listed on State Table 3 on page 8.

## STATEWIDE WAGE INCREASE

Not all industries experienced a 3 percent increase in wages from the prior year. Some occupations had a larger increase, some a smaller increase and some even experienced a wage decrease. For example, the median wage for an order clerk increased 37 percent to \$14.51 per hour.

## OCCUPATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST WAGES

State Table 4 on page 8 shows the occupations with high wages. The data in this table excludes those occupations where only an annual wage is available. The employment size varies from less than 30 to over 2,000. The majority of these occupations occurred in the upper hierarchy of the Standard Occupational Classification system. Occupations are classified on work performed, skills, education, training and credentials. Occupations classified as managers, engineers and scientists each had five occupations that paid over \$35 per hour. However, there were a couple of production and transportation occupations in the group.

## OCCUPATIONS WITH THE LOWEST WAGES

State Table 5 on page 9 shows occupations with the lowest wages. Eleven lower-paid occupations occurred in food preparation and serving. Another 10 occurred in personal care. The wages reported do not include tips which would impact the average wage of food service workers. The average number of workers in these 33 occupations is 2,500, ranging from fewer than 30 in communications equipment operators, all other to 13,960 cashiers. The lower-paid occupations generally tend to be larger and have more turnover.

## HOW TO ACCESS THE WAGE DATA

Idaho Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, conducted the 2007 Occupational Employment Statistics employment and wage survey from November 2003 through May 2006. The data obtained from this survey is now available at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov). If you click on Occupational Employment and Wages on the right side of the Web page, you go directly to the pages with the data. Current data are available in both Excel and PDF. Data for prior years are available in PDF format.

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**State Table 2: August 2007 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to August 2006 data**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2007				August 2006			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	758,346	17,890	2.4	740,456	752,222	25,223	3.4	726,999
<b>COUNTIES</b>								
ADA (1)	200,914	4,289	2.1	196,625	197,368	5,111	2.6	192,256
ADAMS	2,118	73	3.4	2,045	2,105	142	6.8	1,962
BOISE (1)	3,896	76	1.9	3,820	3,933	137	3.5	3,796
CANYON (1)	83,998	2,287	2.7	81,711	83,006	2,968	3.6	80,038
ELMORE	11,225	334	3.0	10,891	11,341	442	3.9	10,899
GEM (1)	7,679	187	2.4	7,493	7,490	281	3.8	7,209
OWYHEE (1)	5,067	63	1.2	5,005	4,782	113	2.4	4,669
PAYETTE	10,425	413	4.0	10,012	10,247	633	6.2	9,614
VALLEY	5,531	142	2.6	5,389	4,889	197	4.0	4,693
WASHINGTON	5,217	142	2.7	5,075	4,993	226	4.5	4,767
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,640	490	4.6	10,149	10,224	568	5.6	9,656
<b>LABOR MARKET AREAS</b>								
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	301,555	6,902	2.3	294,654	296,579	8,611	2.9	287,968
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,219	590	3.1	18,628	20,675	843	4.1	19,832
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	70,745	1,653	2.3	69,092	69,304	2,644	3.8	66,660
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	9,069	305	3.4	8,765	8,948	560	6.3	8,389
HAILEY SLMA (5)	15,889	236	1.5	15,653	14,886	438	2.9	14,448
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	57,987	1,066	1.8	56,921	56,128	1,308	2.3	54,820
LEWISTON MSA (7)	29,820	959	3.2	28,861	29,189	1,310	4.5	27,878
POCATELLO MSA (8)	44,459	1,305	2.9	43,154	45,025	1,795	4.0	43,231
REXBURG MicSA (9)	20,283	352	1.7	19,931	20,513	480	2.3	20,033
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	49,561	961	1.9	48,600	50,440	1,316	2.6	49,124
<b>CITIES</b>								
BOISE	116,612	2,376	2.0	114,235	124,065	3,631	2.9	120,434
CALDWELL	17,106	451	2.6	16,656	15,308	628	4.1	14,680
COEUR D' ALENE	22,424	515	2.3	21,910	22,066	880	4.0	21,186
IDAHO FALLS	27,437	475	1.7	26,962	28,829	760	2.6	28,068
LEWISTON	16,040	362	2.3	15,678	15,779	609	3.9	15,170
MERIDIAN	29,604	644	2.2	28,960	21,580	407	1.9	21,173
NAMPA	36,625	950	2.6	35,675	32,080	1,293	4.0	30,786
POCATELLO	29,506	617	2.1	28,888	28,510	834	2.9	27,676
TWIN FALLS	21,083	397	1.9	20,687	20,633	544	2.6	20,089
United States*	152,891	7,097	4.6	145,794	151,734	7,116	4.7	144,618

\* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research &amp; Analysis and Public Affairs

**State Table 3: Wage Survey Pay Ranges**

Range	Per Hour	Per Year
A	Under \$6.75	Under \$14,040
B	\$6.75 - 8.49	\$14,040 - 17,679
C	\$8.50 - 10.74	\$17,780 - 22,359
D	\$10.75 - 13.49	\$22,360 - 28,078
E	\$13.50 - 16.99	\$28,080 - 35,359
F	\$17.00-21.49	\$35,360-44,719
G	\$21.50-27.24	\$44,720-56,679
H	\$27.25-34.49	\$44,720-56,679
I	\$34.50-43.74	\$71,760-90,999
J	\$43.75-55.49	\$91,000-115,439
K	\$55.50-69.99	\$55.50-69.99
L	\$70.00 +	\$145,600 +

**State Table 4: Occupations Paying More than \$35 Per Hour**

SOC Code	SOC Title	Empl	Average Wage	Mid-point Wage	Entry Wage	Middle Range Wage	
29-1065	Pediatricians, General	*	\$61.12	\$66.15	\$38.03	\$44.39	#
15-2011	Actuaries	*	\$49.47	\$52.78	\$34.39	\$45.50	\$61.52
17-2161	Nuclear Engineers	340	\$49.83	\$48.55	\$38.28	\$41.25	\$56.09
17-2041	Chemical Engineers	260	\$46.88	\$48.11	\$33.93	\$38.16	\$56.02
11-9041	Engineering Managers	1,210	\$48.62	\$47.29	\$32.02	\$37.01	\$59.36
29-1081	Podiatrists	<30	\$50.41	\$45.49	\$29.51	\$35.94	\$55.55
19-2012	Physicists	180	\$45.04	\$44.55	\$30.17	\$34.93	\$56.23
29-1051	Pharmacists	1,320	\$46.48	\$43.88	\$34.05	\$40.01	\$48.59
19-1021	Biochemists and Biophysicists	30	\$42.96	\$42.29	\$31.37	\$33.86	\$54.13
13-1011	Agents and Business Managers of Artists, Performers and Athletes	<30	\$46.53	\$41.78	\$35.67	\$37.14	\$53.15
19-2099	Physical Scientists, All Other	80	\$39.54	\$41.34	\$21.56	\$27.29	\$48.22
15-1011	Computer and Information Scientists, Research	200	\$39.76	\$40.80	\$28.47	\$32.68	\$48.02
11-1011	Chief Executives	4,490	\$46.89	\$40.76	\$19.74	\$26.82	\$62.35
23-1011	Lawyers	2,120	\$46.36	\$40.43	\$20.68	\$25.76	\$55.73
19-2031	Chemists	280	\$36.60	\$39.46	\$20.19	\$25.02	\$45.79
29-1029	Dentists, All Other Specialists	<30	\$42.03	\$39.25	\$34.52	\$35.13	\$49.75
11-9121	Natural Sciences Managers	380	\$39.82	\$38.82	\$30.27	\$33.26	\$47.30
19-2021	Atmospheric and Space Scientists	50	\$37.69	\$38.50	\$26.52	\$31.62	\$45.02
15-1032	Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	1,150	\$38.01	\$37.09	\$24.87	\$29.49	\$46.80
29-1023	Orthodontists	*	\$60.15	\$36.76	\$27.10	\$30.73	#
17-2151	Mining and Geological Engineers, Including Mining Safety Engineers	30	\$39.47	\$36.45	\$27.27	\$31.25	\$45.08
11-2021	Marketing Managers	950	\$39.55	\$36.30	\$22.37	\$27.11	\$49.69
11-3021	Computer and Information Systems Managers	1,060	\$37.65	\$35.88	\$22.53	\$26.96	\$46.44
53-2021	Air Traffic Controllers	80	\$36.46	\$35.88	\$22.11	\$24.15	\$49.06
17-2071	Electrical Engineers	2,850	\$35.85	\$35.66	\$26.02	\$29.80	\$43.06
51-8012	Power Distributors and Dispatchers	<30	\$35.27	\$35.48	\$34.52	\$33.24	\$37.73
17-2112	Industrial Engineers	1,400	\$35.68	\$35.47	\$26.22	\$29.54	\$41.78
15-1031	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	1,030	\$37.45	\$35.26	\$24.79	\$28.14	\$44.39

\* - Estimates not released.

# - This wage is equal to or greater than \$70 per hour or \$145,600 per year



**State Table 5: Occupations Paying Less than \$8.25 Per Hour**

SOC Code	SOC Title	Empl	Average Wage	Mid-point Wages	Entry Wage	Middle Range Wages	
39-9021	Personal and Home Care Aides	2,470	\$8.46	\$8.25	\$7.07	\$7.42	\$9.40
43-4111	Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan	2,240	\$8.97	\$8.23	\$6.04	\$6.53	\$11.09
39-3099	Entertainment Attendants and Related Workers, All Other	250	\$8.17	\$8.13	\$6.78	\$7.26	\$9.03
39-9011	Child Care Workers	2,490	\$8.51	\$8.13	\$6.65	\$7.16	\$9.32
27-2011	Actors	50	\$9.95	\$8.12	\$5.96	\$6.24	\$13.74
35-2021	Food Preparation Workers	2,660	\$8.45	\$7.97	\$6.09	\$6.43	\$10.15
41-2011	Cashiers	13,960	\$8.39	\$7.86	\$6.19	\$6.58	\$9.49
43-2099	Communications Equipment Operators, All Other	<30	\$9.12	\$7.86	\$6.99	\$7.20	\$8.54
39-3011	Gaming Dealers	*	\$7.89	\$7.81	\$6.08	\$6.51	\$9.15
39-6011	Baggage Porters and Bellhops	*	\$8.30	\$7.78	\$6.40	\$6.94	\$8.61
43-4081	Hotel, Motel and Resort Desk Clerks	1,320	\$7.73	\$7.62	\$6.26	\$6.55	\$8.83
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	1,680	\$8.25	\$7.55	\$6.17	\$6.36	\$9.12
51-5022	Prepress Technicians and Workers	*	\$9.40	\$7.54	\$6.37	\$6.43	\$11.22
53-6021	Parking Lot Attendants	250	\$7.88	\$7.54	\$6.17	\$6.38	\$9.52
37-2012	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	3,740	\$7.49	\$7.24	\$6.13	\$6.26	\$8.53
35-2015	Cooks, Short Order	1,060	\$7.66	\$7.20	\$6.23	\$6.22	\$9.02
39-3031	Ushers, Lobby Attendants and Ticket Takers	290	\$7.12	\$7.16	\$6.09	\$6.29	\$8.05
53-7064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	2,680	\$7.91	\$6.97	\$6.15	\$6.12	\$9.53
35-3041	Food Servers, Nonrestaurant	350	\$7.71	\$6.94	\$6.06	\$6.14	\$8.99
35-9021	Dishwashers	2,620	\$7.10	\$6.88	\$6.15	\$6.08	\$8.06
39-9099	Personal Care and Service Workers, All Other	110	\$8.76	\$6.86	\$6.09	\$6.14	\$10.21
33-9092	Lifeguards, Ski Patrol and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers	360	\$7.17	\$6.83	\$6.17	\$6.05	\$7.91
35-2011	Cooks, Fast Food	3,370	\$7.06	\$6.79	\$6.07	\$6.05	\$8.11
35-3022	Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession and Coffee Shop	2,490	\$7.45	\$6.79	\$6.06	\$6.06	\$8.39
39-3021	Motion Picture Projectionists	100	\$7.72	\$6.79	\$6.07	\$6.05	\$8.68
45-2041	Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	1,880	\$7.40	\$6.79	\$6.15	\$6.07	\$8.00
35-9031	Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge and Coffee Shop	1,240	\$6.90	\$6.76	\$6.15	\$6.04	\$7.76
39-3091	Amusement and Recreation Attendants	440	\$7.91	\$6.75	\$6.13	\$6.04	\$8.23
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	10,720	\$7.36	\$6.73	\$6.13	\$6.01	\$8.07
27-3012	Public Address System and Other Announcers	40	\$6.79	\$6.69	\$6.03	\$5.99	\$7.81
35-3011	Bartenders	2,450	\$7.40	\$6.66	\$6.12	\$5.97	\$7.77
35-9011	Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	1,830	\$6.99	\$6.62	\$6.09	\$5.96	\$7.53
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	10,580	\$7.21	\$6.56	\$6.09	\$5.93	\$7.63

\* - Estimates not released.

# - This wage is equal to or greater than \$70 per hour or \$145,600 per year

(1) - Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately and rounded data is used. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

**State Table 6: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**

BY PLACE OF WORK	Aug 2007*	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	663,600	661,300	647,300	0.3	2.5
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	125,300	125,400	128,000	-0.1	-2.1
<i>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</i>	4,900	4,900	4,700	0.0	4.3
Logging	2,000	2,000	2,100	0.0	-4.8
Mining	2,900	2,900	2,600	0.0	11.5
Metal Ore Mining	900	900	800	0.0	12.5
<i>Construction</i>	55,700	55,200	56,300	0.9	-1.1
<i>Manufacturing</i>	64,700	65,300	67,000	-0.9	-3.4
Durable Goods	42,100	42,900	43,400	-1.9	-3.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	8,100	8,100	8,400	0.0	-3.6
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,600	2,600	2,700	0.0	-3.7
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,900	3,900	4,000	0.0	-2.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,800	4,800	4,400	0.0	9.1
Machinery Manufacturing	2,900	3,000	2,900	-3.3	0.0
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	15,700	16,500	16,700	-4.8	-6.0
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,700	3,700	3,300	0.0	12.1
Other Durable Goods	6,900	6,800	7,700	1.5	-10.4
Nondurable Goods	22,600	22,400	23,600	0.9	-4.2
Food Manufacturing	14,100	14,100	14,900	0.0	-5.4
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	6,700	6,800	7,800	-1.5	-14.1
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,200	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,600	2,900	7.7	-3.4
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	538,300	535,900	519,300	0.4	3.7
<i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i>	134,700	134,000	128,300	0.5	5.0
Trade	114,100	113,500	108,100	0.5	5.6
Wholesale Trade	27,700	27,800	27,100	-0.4	2.2
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,800	12,800	12,700	0.0	0.8
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,900	11,900	11,600	0.0	2.6
Retail Trade	86,400	85,700	81,000	0.8	6.7
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,700	12,600	12,200	0.8	4.1
Building Material and Garden Equipment	10,300	10,400	10,500	-1.0	-1.9
Food & Beverage Stores	13,200	13,100	12,600	0.8	4.8
General Merchandise Stores	17,800	17,800	15,700	0.0	13.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,600	20,500	20,200	0.5	2.0
Utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,500	18,400	18,100	0.5	2.2
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,600	9,500	9,200	1.1	4.3
<i>Information</i>	10,900	10,900	10,800	0.0	0.9
Telecommunications	3,900	3,900	3,800	0.0	2.6
<i>Financial Activities</i>	33,800	33,700	32,200	0.3	5.0
Finance & Insurance	24,100	24,100	23,100	0.0	4.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,700	9,600	9,100	1.0	6.6
<i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>	88,300	87,300	83,400	1.1	5.9
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	35,100	34,800	33,200	0.9	5.7
Scientific Research & Development	7,700	7,700	7,600	0.0	1.3
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,700	7,700	7,800	0.0	-1.3
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	45,500	44,800	42,400	1.6	7.3
Administrative & Support Services	44,000	43,300	41,000	1.6	7.3
<i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>	71,900	71,800	69,900	0.1	2.9
Educational Services	6,400	6,300	6,800	1.6	-5.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	65,500	65,500	63,100	0.0	3.8
Hospitals	16,400	16,400	15,100	0.0	8.6
<i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>	67,400	66,700	63,600	1.0	6.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,600	10,600	10,100	0.0	5.0
Accommodation & Food Services	56,800	56,100	53,500	1.2	6.2
Accommodation	10,100	10,000	9,300	1.0	8.6
Food Services & Drinking Places	46,700	46,100	44,200	1.3	5.7
<i>Other Services</i>	19,500	19,500	19,700	0.0	-1.0
<b>Total Government</b>	111,800	112,000	111,400	-0.2	0.4
Federal Government	13,900	14,000	14,300	-0.7	-2.8
State & Local Government	97,900	98,000	97,100	-0.1	0.8
State Government	27,700	27,700	28,400	0.0	-2.5
State Government Education	11,400	11,800	12,700	-3.4	-10.2
State Government Administration	16,300	15,900	15,700	2.5	3.8
Local Government	70,200	70,300	68,700	-0.1	2.2
Local Government Education	33,500	33,600	33,000	-0.3	1.5
Local Government Administration	33,200	33,200	32,400	0.0	2.5
Local Government Tribes	3,500	3,500	3,300	0.0	6.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.



**State Table 7: Economic Indicators**

	Aug 2007	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	758,400	762,900	752,200	-0.6	0.8
Unemployment	17,900	17,400	25,200	2.9	-29.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	2.4	2.3	3.4		
Total Employment	740,500	745,500	727,000	-0.7	1.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	763,400	773,300	754,800	-1.3	1.1
Unemployment	15,300	14,500	22,700	5.5	-32.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	2.0	1.9	3.0		
Total Employment	748,100	758,800	732,100	-1.4	2.2
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>	4.6	4.6	4.7		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	203.2	203.7	199.6	-0.2	1.8
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	207.9	208.3	203.9	-0.2	2.0
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	49,030	48,640	49,710	0.8	-1.4
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	350	360	360	-2.8	-2.8
Hired Workers	38,940	38,540	39,610	1.0	-1.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	5,663	6,667	5,012	-15.1	13.0
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	36,004	41,841	32,647	-14.0	10.3
<i>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></i>					
Weeks Compensated	28,761	32,199	29,374	-10.7	-2.1
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$6,931,313	\$7,528,990	\$6,433,989	-7.9	7.7
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$241.00	\$233.83	\$219.04	3.1	10.0
Covered Employers	50,938	49,996	48,934	1.9	4.1
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$117,126,153	\$114,776,018	\$113,056,774	2.0	3.6

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities



# Panhandle News

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Coeur d'Alene Metropolitan Statistical Area recently was named one of the 10 best performing small metro areas by the Milken Institute. The index, which Milken publishes annually, measures an area's ability to create and sustain jobs. It ranked Coeur d'Alene sixth among the nation's 179 metro areas under 235,000 population. Based partly on five-year and one-year measurements of employment and salary growth, the index also measures the growth in technology output, which plays a crucial role in regional economic expansion.

In September, the Canadian dollar, also known as the loonie, achieved par with the U.S. dollar for the first time in 30 years. That means Canadians have a lot more buying power than they did two years ago when the loonie was worth 76 cents in the U.S. That's good news for the Panhandle since a lot of Canadians are coming here to shop and play. It also may encourage some Americans, who had planned to ski or tour in Canada to look south of the border.

The change in the U.S.-Canadian exchange rate also benefits the Panhandle's logging companies, sawmills and wood products manufacturers. It's making Canadian lumber, paper and plywood relatively more expensive, helping U.S. companies regain market share.

The dollar also has lost considerable value relative to the euro, which should benefit Panhandle manufacturers since it makes their products comparatively less expensive for Europeans and more competitive with European products in other markets. It also may lead to more Europeans visiting the United States including the Panhandle.

Panhandle Table 1: Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Kootenai County

	Aug 2007*	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	70,740	70,870	69,300	-0.2	2.1
Unemployed	1,650	1,810	2,640	-8.8	-37.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.6	3.8		
Total Employment	69,090	69,060	66,660	0.0	3.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,940	72,660	70,450	-1.0	2.1
Unemployed	1,310	1,360	2,070	-3.7	-36.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.8	1.9	2.9		
Total Employment	70,630	71,300	68,380	-0.9	3.3
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	59,010	58,790	56,990	0.4	3.5
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	11,880	11,810	11,630	0.6	2.1
Natural Resources & Mining	610	600	500	1.7	22.0
Construction	6,500	6,460	6,320	0.6	2.8
Manufacturing	4,770	4,750	4,810	0.4	-0.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	940	930	1,060	1.1	-11.3
Other Manufacturing	3,830	3,820	3,750	0.3	2.1
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	47,130	46,980	45,360	0.3	3.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,310	11,280	10,850	0.3	4.2
Wholesale Trade	1,580	1,570	1,540	0.6	2.6
Retail Trade	8,550	8,530	8,150	0.2	4.9
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,180	1,180	1,160	0.0	1.7
Information	900	920	960	-2.2	-6.3
Financial Activities	3,190	3,170	3,030	0.6	5.3
Professional & Business Services	6,640	6,600	6,270	0.6	5.9
Educational & Health Services	5,530	5,480	5,260	0.9	5.1
Leisure & Hospitality	8,970	8,920	8,630	0.6	3.9
Other Services	1,630	1,630	1,570	0.0	3.8
Government Education	2,810	2,790	2,800	0.7	0.4
Government Administration	5,280	5,320	5,220	-0.8	1.1
Government Tribes	870	870	770	0.0	13.0

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Cooler, moister weather in early September reduced fire danger in the Panhandle, and the U.S. Forest Service on Sept. 6 lifted restrictions imposed on outdoor activity more than a month earlier, permitting logging operations to return to normal.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### BONNER COUNTY

- Unicep Packaging is expanding again. The Sandpoint manufacturer of one-dose plastic applicators for medicine, makeup and industrial solvents currently is adding 13 more workers to the 110 people it employs at its 65,000-square-foot facility. It ex-

pects to start making applicators for prescription drugs soon, which would mean 30 more workers over the next couple of years.

- Liquidation World, a chain selling discounted brand-name merchandise, announced in August that it would close 16 stores including those in midtown Coeur d'Alene and in the former Kmart in Ponderay. The stores, which employ seven people each, will close by the end of October.

#### **BOUNDARY COUNTY**

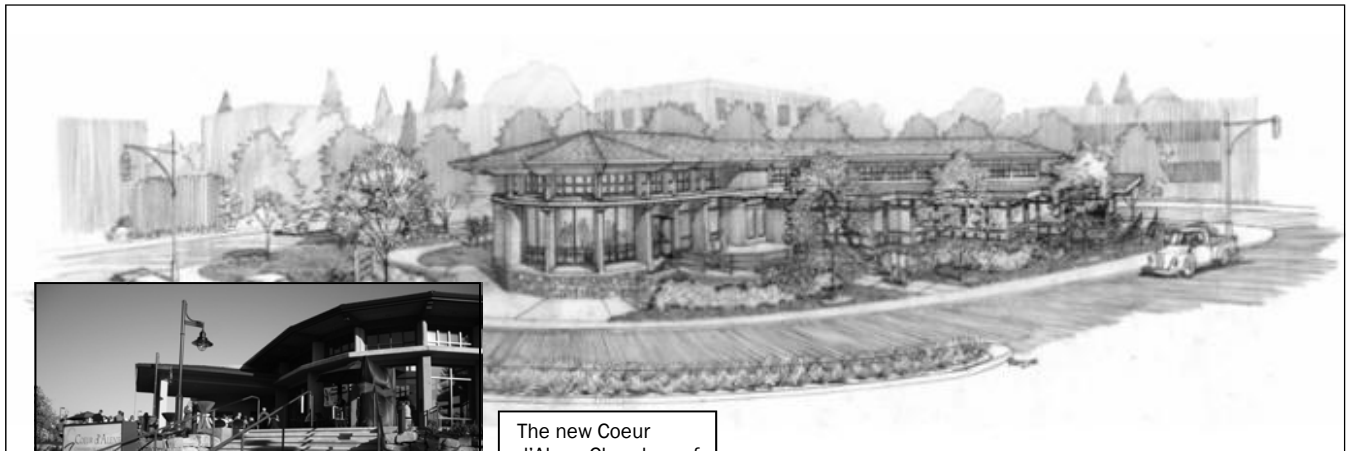
- Jeneen Schuler is busy turning the Naples Inn into a bed and breakfast. The hostel in a 50-year-old dance hall just off U.S. Highway 95 is being renovated into five guest suites and comfortable lounges. One dormitory-style suite sleeps eight people. The Caribou Room can hold up to 130 people for weddings, corporate meetings and other events. Schuler expects the grand opening in early November.
- A soft market for wood products and the unavailability of cedar logs forced a second two-week shutdown at Welco of Idaho, a mill near Naples making Western Red Cedar boards for fences. All 60 full-time workers were back on the job in early September. All workers except those in maintenance had also been furloughed for two weeks in July. At that time, Welco permanently laid off 21 people but has recalled a few since.

#### **KOOTENAI COUNTY**

- Cabela's is preparing to open a 125,000-square-foot sporting goods store on Nov. 9 in Post Falls. It recently hired 250 employees for the store and its restaurant. The store, featuring large aquariums and museum-quality displays of animals in their native habitat, is expected to draw a large number of visitors. The centerpiece will be a 28-foot-high indoor mountain complete with waterfall, stream and plenty of outcroppings to display wildlife mounts. The mountain was built by Lakeland Company Inc. in Rathdrum, which specializes in creating grand illusions including forests, deserts, rock formations and ancient ruins for businesses, museums and zoos across the nation. Lakeland has also built the mountains for Cabela's stores in St. Louis and Boise.
- Inc., the monthly business magazine, placed two Coeur d'Alene businesses on its list of the 5,000 fastest growing private companies in the United States. Sunshine Minting Inc., which makes silver rounds and medallions, placed 1,350<sup>th</sup> because its

revenues grew 266 percent, from \$51.4 million to \$188.3 million. Pita Pit Inc., the healthy fast food company whose U.S. headquarters is in Coeur d'Alene, ranked 1,545<sup>th</sup> because its revenues grew 231 percent from \$1.1 million in 2003 to \$3.6 million in 2006. As of September, the Pita Pit has 137 pita sandwich restaurants in 38 states with another 20 expected to open by the end of the year.

- Coldwater Creek, the Sandpoint-based national retailer of women's clothing, plans a 100,000-square-foot building at its Coeur d'Alene customer service campus. The two upper levels will contain 50,000 square feet of office space for information technology and other corporate staff while a 130-vehicle parking garage will be below ground. Coldwater Creek also will add 18,000 square feet to its current 60,000-square-foot building for an employee fitness center, larger cafeteria and kitchen facilities and more loading dock and storage capacity. Coldwater Creek employs 350 people, mostly call center workers, at its Coeur d'Alene campus.
- By Design, a publishing company in Hayden, has grown rapidly. Five years ago, Brandon Lee started Home by Design, a home décor magazine that realtors use as a marketing tool. The magazines are personalized with the picture of the realtor on the cover, who can send it to past and potential customers. Now, he and his 65 employees are serving 7,000 realtors and a growing number of insurance agents, bringing in revenues of \$10 million a year. Network Communications Inc., one of the nation's largest publishers of real estate periodicals, recently purchased By Design with the understanding that Lee will remain with the company for at least two years.
- The Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of its \$3 million, 12,000-square-foot building on Sept. 13. Located across from the clock tower, the new building offers spectacular views of Independence Point and Lake Coeur d'Alene. About 50,000 people are expected to visit the 1,700-square-foot tourist center there annually. The chamber's move from midtown to downtown makes it more visible. Because of rapid business growth in the Coeur d'Alene area, the chamber needed more space. In addition to the chamber's 18-member staff, the building houses the Coeur d'Alene Downtown Association, the Coeur d'Alene Arts and Cultural Alliance and



The new Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce building—artist rendering and finished entrance. The building houses several other agencies and businesses.

the Lake City Development Corp., the city's urban renewal agency. In addition, a travel agency is leasing 2,000 square feet on the building's lower level.

- The Rock Joint, a sports bar with a rock 'n' roll theme, recently opened in Hayden, serving pizza, sandwiches, salads, calzones and desserts.
- The shopping plaza next to the Coeur d'Alene Resort has two new tenants. Story Woods Gallery opened in a 2,600-square-foot space in August. The store sells furniture, molding, flooring, picture frames, doors and other wooden objects. Each item comes with a book explaining the item's history. The store also offers paintings, sculpture and pottery by well-known artists. Storybook Bridal Boutique sells evening clothes and other outfits for women as well as wedding clothes and accessories. The original Storybook Bridal Boutique, which opened last winter in Hayden Creek Plaza, will remain open.
- The Sportsman's Plaza near the Coeur d'Alene Costco now is full. A Great Clips hair salon with 10 employees opened there in mid-September. A Nick-n-Willy's Pizza outlet also recently opened. The shop sells gourmet pizzas using hand-tossed dough and it employs a dozen people. Another new tenant, Baby Space, sells maternity clothes, cribs, baby proofing equipment, diaper bags and infant and toddler clothing.
- Business has boomed at the Lakeview Lodge in Harrison since Paul and Suzanne Hoskinson purchased the motel in 2006 and renovated the 10

rooms on the lower level. Next summer, they plan to open the upper level. Offering breath-taking views of the southeastern end of Lake Coeur d'Alene, the motel caters to fishing and biking enthusiasts with attractive rooms and an atmosphere attracting guests to gather around a bonfire at night.

- Big Bear Deli, serving a healthy alternative to fast food, recently opened in Post Falls. Everything on the menu from sandwiches, soups and salads to cupcakes is made from scratch.

#### **SHOSHONE COUNTY**

- A \$1.7 million renovation at the Shoshone County Airport in Smelterville, the first in 40 years, will be completed by the end of October. The runway is being elevated four feet to allow planes at opposite ends of the runway to see each other, the safety area between the runway and the interstate overpass is being lengthened and new pilot-controlled lights are being installed on the runway. In addition, new water and sewer lines will connect with McKinley Avenue in Kellogg and Government Gulch. This will allow development of 20 acres north of the airport. County commissioners expect the improvements to increase the Silver Valley's attractiveness to industry. The airport received 95 percent of the renovation's funding from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the rest was evenly split between the state and county.

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# North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

August's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased three-tenths of a point from July to 3.2 percent in the Lewiston metro area. A majority of the new jobs in August were created in the metal fabrication sector of manufacturing. Year-over-year unemployment was also down 1.3 percentage points from last August's rate of 4.5 percent.

## AREA UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

A record 3,612 students were enrolled at Lewis-Clark State College for this fall's term. This represents a 6.5 percent increase over a year ago when the school saw its student population dip by 1 percent. The previous record was 3,471 set in 2003. Student numbers at the University of Idaho were down just 1 percent, a mild dip compared to last year's 6 percent decline. Statewide enrollment was 11,636 with 10,549 of those students on the Moscow campus. Washington State University saw its student body on the main Pullman campus grow by 1.6 percent to 17,583. Statewide numbers were even better at 3.1 percent growth to 24,396. That number was bolstered by the first class of freshmen at the Tri-Cities campus, which this year followed the 2006 transition of the Vancouver campus to a four-year school. Enrollment figures are important because they help determine funding allocations. The more students a school has, the more money it gets. And more students paying tuition and fees also add to a school's revenue.

## AGRICULTURE

According to area farmers, it's raining grains of gold. With worldwide stocks low, regional growers are seeing record returns for their harvested

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Aug 2007*	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,820	30,040	29,190	-0.7	2.2
Unemployment	960	1,040	1,310	-7.7	-26.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.5	4.5		
Total Employment	28,860	29,000	27,880	-0.5	3.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,550	29,850	28,720	-1.0	2.9
Unemployment	900	910	1,120	-1.1	-19.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.0	3.9		
Total Employment	28,650	28,940	27,600	-1.0	3.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	27,440	27,640	27,560	-0.7	-0.4
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,890	4,990	5,030	-2.0	-2.8
Natural Resources & Mining	200	210	210	-4.8	-4.8
Construction	1,700	1,670	1,670	1.8	1.8
Manufacturing	2,990	3,110	3,150	-3.9	-5.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	550	550	560	0.0	-1.8
Paper Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,130	0.0	-2.7
Other Manufacturing	1,340	1,460	1,460	-8.2	-8.2
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,550	22,650	22,530	-0.4	0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,540	5,520	5,380	0.4	3.0
Wholesale Trade	670	670	670	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	3,620	3,610	3,500	0.3	3.4
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	-0.3
Transportation & Warehousing	1,160	1,150	1,120	0.9	3.6
Information	410	410	400	0.0	2.5
Financial Activities	2,110	2,100	2,010	0.5	5.0
Professional & Business Services	1,640	1,650	1,670	-0.6	-1.8
Education & Health Services	4,450	4,510	4,440	-1.3	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	2,640	2,630	2,560	0.4	3.1
Other Services	1,170	1,180	1,140	-0.8	2.6
Government Education	2,210	2,290	2,220	-3.5	-0.5
Government Administration	1,600	1,590	2,000	0.6	-20.0
Government Tribes	780	770	710	1.3	9.9

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

wheat. In September, soft white wheat was selling for \$8.88 a bushel — more than a dollar over August's record high. "We're making history right now," Tom Riedner of CLD Pacific Grain in Lewiston said. "The commodities are just incredible. They have never been this high." Simple economics are dictating the jump, which also has had a leav-

ening effect on other commodities such as barley, lentils and peas. Competition from wheat harvests in Europe, Canada and other countries was low this year, and the Australian crop, which won't be harvested until November and December, is expected to be much smaller than average because of prolonged drought. "After six of the last seven years with global consumption exceeding production, coupled with weather problems scattered around the world this year, wheat stocks are low and prices are indeed at an all-time high," said Alan Tracy, president of U.S. Wheat Associates. Soft white wheat prices are more than double a year ago's \$4.14 a bushel.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### IDAHO & LEWIS COUNTIES

- The fire season did have a silver lining. Forest Service firefighter spending gave the Idaho County economy a boost in August. There is no question, says Melinda Fischer, president of the Grangeville Chamber of Commerce, the wildfire season gave the whole area an economic boost. "I know that it really helps the restaurants," Fischer said. "And the hotels were packed. It seems to give them a shot in the arm." Laura Smith, public information officer for the Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests, says the agency tries to keep its business in the local community as much as possible. The agency's buying teams "make every effort to purchase locally," Smith said, "meaning not just Grangeville but all of Idaho County." Plenty of firefighters and people on the fire support teams eat in Idaho County restaurants and buy their groceries at the local markets. But the agency does hire caterers — who bid on the jobs nationally — because "it's more economical to go with a caterer that can go with a campsite because they can accommodate that many personnel," Smith said. The Forest Service does not keep a tally of how much it spends in each of the communities, but so far it has spent \$1.8 million in general supplies for the Rattlesnake Fire south of Dixie and \$1.4 million in general supplies for the Poe Cabin Fire east of White Bird. That does not include how much has been spent for heavy equipment, crew transportation, facilities and vehicles.
- The Nez Perce National Forest offices in Grangeville will move in October. Employees in the supervisor's office, Clearwater Ranger District and the Interagency Dispatch Center will be moving into a new building north of Grangeville. Also included in the move are some Bureau of Land Management and NOAA Fisheries employees. Construction of

the headquarters and warehouse facilities is on schedule. Last October, Harold Mildenerger of Hamilton, Mont., was awarded a 15-year fixed lease at \$742,000 a year with a five-year option on the property south of the Forest Service's Grangeville Air Center. The new building eliminates the need for two sites on the east end of Grangeville the city leases from Blewett, Blewett and Profitt of Grangeville at \$405,000 annually.

### LATAH COUNTY

- Horizon is revamping its fares with the addition of Q400s to its fleet. The company reduced ticket prices by about 50 percent on Sept. 9 from both the Pullman-Moscow airport and the Lewiston/Nez Perce County airport. The change is part of the airline's fare restructuring initiative, which began in July and will affect a number of routes in the Northwest. Horizon Media Relations Manager Jen Boyer said a large factor in the lowered fares is the airline's decision to phase out its 37-seat Dash-8 plane and upgrade to the 70-seat Q400. Boyer isn't sure if the Q400 planes will begin flying into the Pullman-Moscow in 2008 or 2009, but the lowered fares are permanent, no matter the plane. Larger planes are more cost effective and fuel efficient, "which allows us to pass on those savings to our customers," she said. "We're simplifying the fares throughout the system."
- The University of Idaho is doubling the budget of its technology transfer office this year with most of the new revenue being used to add employees. The institution expects the new hires will be paying for their own positions within four years through the money the school receives from the private sector for inventions.
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories' new plant in Mexico is expected to create more jobs in Pullman, Wash. Founder and President Ed Schweitzer has announced the start of work in San Luis Potiso, Mexico, on a 100,000-square-foot manufacturing facility — three times larger than a plant the company has outgrown in Monterey, Mexico. Schweitzer said growth in Mexico will translate to growth in Pullman. The number of employees at the new San Luis Potiso facility will likely jump from 150 to 300 in the next few years. They primarily will make and assemble electronic relay panels and control houses. The high-tech components for the panels are designed, created and tested by workers in the company's Pullman headquarters, which employs 1,000. Another 350 employees work at 61 other locations worldwide,

and its products are used in 119 countries across the globe.

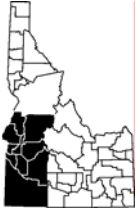
#### **NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES**

- The rivers that surround Lewiston are now beckoning a national audience. National Geographic Adventure has named Lewiston one of its top waterfront destinations – one of the 50 best places to live and play in the United States. The magazine published the listing in its September issue. Lewiston was previously rated one of the six best places to buy a home in a 2006 article by Kendra Todd, a winner of "The Apprentice" television show. That article first appeared on the Yahoo Web site. Las Vegas topped National Geographic Adventure's 2007 listing, which included one city from each of the 50 states. Other Northwest towns on the list included Wenatchee, Wash.; Missoula, Mont.; and Hood River, Ore. The list is broken down into the best mountain towns, small towns, wilderness towns, waterfront towns and cities. Idaho's only seaport was one of nine towns listed among the top for their waterfronts with Waimea, Hawaii, listed as a hot spot. The article named the mile-high walls of Hell's Canyon as the reason Lewiston is on the map.
- Potlatch Corp. is relocating a select group of about 25 managers from its finance office in Lewiston to its executive headquarters in Spokane. "There are no positions being eliminated in association with this relocation," said Mark Benson, Potlatch's vice president of public affairs in Spokane. "Each employee who's affected will have to make a personal decision about whether they choose to relocate or not. Remaining in Lewiston in these positions is not an option." Workers in the Lewiston finance office are in corporate accounting, internal auditing, taxes and information systems. Potlatch is the largest employer in Lewiston, where it has about 2,000 workers at its biggest manufacturing complex. The mill produces lumber, paperboard and tissue products. Benson said the transfers were not a reflection on Lewiston's strategic importance to Potlatch. "This is about efficiency in organizational structure." The company became a real estate investment trust in 2006, a move which provides it certain tax advantages for timber transactions. This is the second significant move Potlatch has made that involves non-hourly employees in less than one year. The company eliminated 37 jobs from its resource group early this year including 20 in Idaho, most of which were in Lewiston.
- In September, a group of 50 boat dealers from the Northwest and Canada toured the newly expanded Thunder Jet manufacturing facility in Clarkston, Wash. The plant has more than doubled in size to 55,000 square feet. The growing appeal of welded aluminum boats for ocean-going excursions is creating a new, lucrative niche. Thunder Jet is adding 20 jobs soon, bringing the number of people it employs to 70 as it completes an \$800,000 expansion of its factory, said company President and Chief Executive Darrell Mills. "The aluminum industry is spreading into salt water," Mills said. "They're saying they're more durable. They last longer than fiberglass." The trend is welcome news for Mills and his employees. Production at the factory had plateaued at between 400 and 500 boats per year, an indication of the stagnation in the traditional markets for welded boats in rivers, streams and lakes, he said. Now the plant is backlogged by about 700 boat orders. The boat manufacturer has designed two special lines to meet the challenges of ocean navigation. One line of 19- to 24-foot boats is almost identical to river vessels except they are self bailing and the sides are a few inches higher. The retail price at \$45,000 is not much higher than what Thunder Jet charges for river models. But Thunder Jet also has introduced 24- to 32-foot boats that run about \$60,000 to \$180,000. The largest models can be at sea for a week at a time. The hulls are shaped to cut through the higher waves with more ease. They sleep six and have combination stoves/heaters that run on diesel to limit the chance of explosions.

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# Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## ADAMS COUNTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*Council was Idaho's Capital for a Day on Sept. 25, putting Adams County in the spotlight.*

## ADAMS COUNTY EMPLOYMENT

The Adams County job market has been one of transition over the last 11 years, shifting from dependence on logging and government to a more diverse mix of industries such as manufacturing, trade, tourism and most significantly construction with the development of the Tamarack resort in neighboring Valley County. Since 1995, the annual average covered employment has increased by 33.6 percent from 928 to 1,240 in 2006, and the unemployment rate has plunged from 13.8 percent in 1995 and 6.6 percent last year. Both are remarkable since small counties, especially small rural counties relatively far from a population center, typically struggle to expand their economies.

Despite its successes, Adams County is not without its challenges. It is in danger of becoming a service economy after work at Tamarack tapers off. While this creates jobs and brings outside tourism money to

**Southwestern Idaho Table 2: August 2007 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Number Employed
Ada	200,914	4,289	2.1	196,625
Adams	2,118	73	3.4	2,045
Boise	3,896	76	1.9	3,820
Canyon	83,998	2,287	2.7	81,711
Elmore	11,225	334	3.0	10,891
Gem	7,679	187	2.4	7,493
Owyhee	5,067	63	1.2	5,005
Payette	10,425	413	4.0	10,012
Valley	5,531	142	2.6	5,389
Washington	5,217	142	2.7	5,075
Statewide	758,346	17,890	2.4	740,456

**Southwestern Idaho Table 1: Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)**

	Aug 2007*	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	301,600	303,200	296,600	-0.5	1.7
Unemployment	6,900	6,200	8,600	11.3	-19.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.0	2.9		
Total Employment	294,700	297,000	288,000	-0.8	2.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	301,500	306,400	295,100	-1.6	2.2
Unemployment	6,200	5,700	8,100	8.8	-23.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.1	1.9	2.7		
Total Employment	295,300	300,700	287,000	-1.8	2.9
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	281,800	281,200	271,300	0.2	3.9
Natural Resources & Construction	58,000	58,300	57,900	-0.5	0.2
Construction	26,600	26,400	26,000	0.8	2.3
Manufacturing	26,200	26,000	25,600	0.8	2.3
Durable Goods	31,400	31,900	31,900	-1.6	-1.6
Wood Product Manufacturing	25,400	25,900	25,700	-1.9	-1.2
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	2,700	2,600	2,700	3.8	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,600	0.0	12.5
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	14,500	15,100	15,000	-4.0	-3.3
Other Durable Goods	2,600	2,600	2,400	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	2,400	2,400	2,700	0.0	-11.1
Food Manufacturing	6,000	6,000	6,200	0.0	-3.2
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,400	4,300	4,200	2.3	4.8
Other Nondurable Goods	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	900	1,000	1,300	-10.0	-30.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	223,800	222,900	213,400	0.4	4.9
Trade	55,800	55,400	52,200	0.7	6.9
Wholesale Trade	48,300	47,800	44,600	1.0	8.3
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,600	12,600	12,000	0.0	5.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	7,000	7,000	6,900	0.0	1.4
Retail Trade	3,900	3,900	3,700	0.0	5.4
Food & Beverage Stores	35,700	35,200	32,600	1.4	9.5
General Merchandise Stores	4,700	4,600	4,500	2.2	4.4
All Other Retail Trade	7,300	7,300	6,400	0.0	14.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	23,700	23,300	21,700	1.7	9.2
Utilities	7,500	7,600	7,600	-1.3	-1.3
Transportation & Warehousing	700	700	600	0.0	16.7
Information	6,800	6,900	7,000	-1.4	-2.9
Telecommunications	4,700	4,600	4,700	2.2	0.0
Financial Activities	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
Finance & Insurance	15,300	15,400	14,300	-0.6	7.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	10,900	10,900	9,900	0.0	10.1
Professional & Business Services	4,400	4,500	4,400	-2.2	0.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	41,700	41,600	40,600	0.2	2.7
Management of Companies & Ent.	12,000	11,900	11,900	0.8	0.8
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	5,500	5,600	5,700	-1.8	-3.5
Educational & Health Services	24,200	24,100	23,000	0.4	5.2
Educational Services	32,900	32,800	31,600	0.3	4.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,300	2,200	2,100	4.5	9.5
Hospitals	30,600	30,600	29,500	0.0	3.7
Leisure & Hospitality	9,900	9,900	9,400	0.0	5.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	24,800	24,600	24,200	0.8	2.5
Accommodation & Food Services	3,100	3,100	3,500	0.0	-11.4
Accommodation	21,700	21,500	20,700	0.9	4.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	2,400	2,300	2,200	4.3	9.1
Other Services	19,300	19,200	18,500	0.5	4.3
Total Government	8,000	7,900	6,900	1.3	15.9
Federal Government	40,600	40,600	38,900	0.0	4.4
State & Local Government	5,900	5,900	5,900	0.0	0.0
State Government	34,700	34,700	33,000	0.0	5.2
State Government Education	12,500	12,500	12,500	0.0	0.0
State Government Administration	3,500	3,500	3,600	0.0	-2.8
Local Government	9,000	9,000	8,900	0.0	1.1
Local Government Education	22,200	22,200	20,500	0.0	8.3
Local Government Administration	13,600	13,600	12,200	0.0	11.5
	8,600	8,600	8,300	0.0	3.6

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

the area, the jobs are not the high-paying logging, manufacturing or construction jobs of today. As land prices continue to climb in response to Tamarack and service-sector jobs become more prevalent, Adams County could see people begin leaving for better job opportunities elsewhere.

#### **POPULATION**

Adams County ranks 41st among Idaho's 44 counties in population and is the sixth smallest in area. In 2006, the population declined 1.6 percent to 3,485. In 2005 the population increased 2.5 percent. The decline followed housing prices escalating beyond the affordable because of the development in Valley County. Residents relocated for work elsewhere. From 1996 to 2006, the overall decline was 5.6 percent. Adams County is the only county in southwestern Idaho to experience a net out migration of residents. As land prices continue to climb and the natural resources industries that Adams County is historically dependent upon decline, the population is likely to continue falling in the near future.

#### **PER CAPITA INCOME**

Adams County ranked 10th in the state in 2005 in per capita income at \$26,612, a leap from 16th just one year prior. Part of the reason for this gain is affluent people opting to build second homes in Adams County to avoid the crowds of nearby Valley County. Despite the gains, per capita income remains 7 percent below the state level and 29.5 percent below the national level.

#### **BRUNDAGE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENTS**

In March 2006 the J.R. Simplot Co. sold its 50 percent ownership in the Brundage Mountain Ski Resort to long-time co-owners Judd and Diane DeBoer and their family. The sale was made to the DeBoer's Brown's Industries Inc. and Snowy Peaks LLC. Brundage Mountain Resort's first priority will be to develop new runs and lifts that were started several years ago. Brundage experienced one of its best snow seasons on record in 2006 with over 400 cumulative inches of snowfall and 147 days of skiing. A summer resort as well, Brundage has plans for a season of chair-lift mountain biking and scenic lift rides along with weddings and concerts at the resort's facilities.

In addition to the sale, Brundage Mountain Resort and the Payette National Forest completed a land swap in July 2006 that gave Brundage 388 acres of land surrounding the base of the mountain the resort is built on while the Payette National Forest got 350 acres of wetlands and streams with bull trout, salmon and steelhead habitat.

Brundage Mountain Resort announced in April 2007 that it will be adding two new chair lifts to the ski hill by mid-December. The resort is investing over \$3 million on the lifts, which will open up an additional 160 acres of the mountain to skiers. The new lifts will allow an additional 3,600 skiers an hour to use the mountain.

#### **OTHER ADAMS COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS**

Private land values in Adams County continue to escalate with spillover development from Valley County. Land values in 2006 increased by 65 percent, or \$190 million, over 2005. The city of New Meadows led the way with increases of up to 400 percent because of its proximity to McCall, Cascade and Donnelly in Valley County.

New Meadows and Adams County are not far behind McCall and Valley County in dealing with the problems of rapid growth, escalating land and building values and a shortage of affordable housing.

With expiration of its subdivision moratorium, the Adams County Commission has adopted a new comprehensive plan and updated subdivision and zoning ordinances. In July 2006 the county adopted a requirement that 10 percent of lots within a development be designated for affordable housing. The lots can be outside the development if the county approves.

The county also joined with Council, New Meadows, Valley County and its cities of Donnelly, McCall and Cascade to form the Valley-Adams Regional Housing Authority in November 2006 to deal with escalating housing and land prices. Officials believe the Housing Authority can help provide opportunities for homeownership for average residents.

Holland Construction unveiled affordable duplexes in Council in June. The units are 1,100 square feet each with three bedrooms renting for \$650 a month. Holland has plans, and the city has already approved city water and sewer hookups, for 48 more units.

In addition, the city of Council has decided to implement a strategic plan developed regionally by the Valley Adams Planning Partnership to address growth management, housing and economic development, focusing on business and work force retention and work force development. The city recently established new planning and zoning fees. Permits for comprehensive plan change, home office, zoning variance, conditional use permit, preliminary subdivision plats, annexation request and a development agreement will cost \$250 each.

In October 2006 C&M Lumber of New Meadows moved to a new location on Idaho Highway 55. The new store at 14,000 square feet is three times larger than the former location. C&M Lumber has also diversified its product line and increased its inventory.

The Adams County Health Center lost part of its funding in the recent election when the voters dissolved the Council Hospital Taxing District. Despite that loss, the health center will remain open as new sources of funds are sought.

The Council library received nearly \$6,000 in new computers in June from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Adams County has been working with Valley and Boise counties to promote the biomass industry. Biomass, or woody biomass, is waste wood from timber operations that is normally just burned. It is now being used to make building materials such as posts, landscaping timbers, mulch, bark and a multitude of other similar products. The Idaho Department of Commerce, the U.S. Forest Service, the West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area and the rural development arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are all signed on as financial partners.

The Southwest Idaho Woody Biomass Partnership comprised of Adams, Boise, Gem and Valley counties received a \$50,000 grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency. This grant complements grants totaling \$300,000 from the Idaho Department of Commerce, the U.S. Forest Service and private businesses to operate the partnership for three years.

The Adams County Historic Preservation Commission received a \$257,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant in July to convert the old courthouse into a community center. The courthouse was built in 1915 and has fallen into disrepair.

The Council Rod & Gun Club received a \$7,500 grant in August from the National Rifle Association to replace the roof of its clubhouse and drill a new well. The association awarded \$145,000 in grants to various clubs and programs.

A new country store opened in Cuprum. The Indian Creek Store is located behind the old Post Office and stocked with all the necessities of a general store.

## OTHER SOUTHWESTERN AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### BOISE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

- Nonfarm payroll jobs in August in the Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area were up 600 from July and 10,000 from August 2006. Nonfarm jobs totaled 281,700, 3.7 percent from a year earlier. Southwestern Idaho Table 3 shows the change in the nonfarm payroll jobs from each August beginning in 1999. The largest gain was in 2000 when retail trade, profes-

sional and business services, health care and leisure and hospitality each added more than 2,000 jobs.

- The loss of 2,100 jobs in August 2002 was a direct result of layoffs in the high-tech sector. Computer and electronics manufacturing shed over 1,600 jobs alone. Another 1,000 jobs were lost in construction. It was the largest year-to-year loss of nonfarm jobs for any August since figures have been provided for the metropolitan area.
- Increased payrolls during August 2007 came from retail trade, which was up 500 with continued development of shopping centers such as the Treasure Valley Market Place in Nampa, and public schools, which added 1,500 jobs from one year ago as a number of new schools opened for the fall term. Other growth areas were administrative and support services, health care and hotels and restaurants. Each added over 1,000 jobs since August 2006. The job losses were in computer and electronics manufacturing, which reported 500 fewer jobs following layoffs at Micron Technology. More detail can be found on Southwestern Idaho Table 1 on page 16.
- The metropolitan unemployment rate in August was 2.9 percent seasonally adjusted up from 2.8 percent in July and matching June's rate for the lowest three-month rate this decade. Boise County at 1.9 percent and Owyhee County at 1.2 percent were the only metro counties under 2 percent. Owyhee matched Teton County for the lowest rate in the state. Payette County reported the highest unemployment in the region at 4 percent. This was the fourth highest rate in the state during August. Unemployment rates for the counties in southwestern Idaho can be found in Southwestern Idaho Table 2 on page 16.
- The labor force was essentially unchanged from July at 301,600, an increase of 5,000 over the last year. The increase was a result of 6,700 more employed persons and 1,700 fewer unemployed persons. Again additional details can be found in Table 1 on page 16.

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### ADA COUNTY

- A new store in Garden City offers all kinds of signs. For real estate signs, banners, full-color displays or magnetic signs, check out All Sign and Post.
- Boise State University celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. Founded by the Episcopal Church, it opened as Boise Junior College with 78 students. The enrollment today is more than 19,000 and is now a public institution.
- CBH Homes turned to online services in light of the slowdown in the housing market. The company has

Southwestern Idaho Table 3: Boise City - Nampa MSA Nonfarm Payroll Jobs			
Date	Payroll Jobs	Percent Change	Numeric Change
Aug-99	218,500	4.3	8,986
Aug-00	234,300	7.2	15,800
Aug-01	238,000	1.6	3,700
Aug-02	235,900	-0.9	-2,100
Aug-03	235,000	-0.4	-900
Aug-04	243,400	3.6	8,400
Aug-05	255,800	5.1	12,400
Aug-06	271,700	6.2	15,900
Aug-07	281,700	3.7	10,000

listed five homes on eBay. The homes ranged in price from \$140,000 to \$210,000, but each had a price threshold that had to be met before it could be sold. At least one home was purchased by a local couple.

- Construction is slowing in the area. Foundation workers are busy through the end of the year, but next year is looking slow. Commercial building has dominated the last few months, but that appears to be slowing down as the year ends.
- Eagle now has a place where people can get snowboarding clothes and accessories. Epic Apparel and Board recently opened in Eagle to claim that niche market.
- Penny Lane Books, a children's book, game, gifts and educational toy store, recently opened in Eagle.
- Peterson Autoplex reached a deal with Oregon-based Lithia Motors for Peterson to take over the Chevrolet franchise in Boise. The Autoplex will have three dealerships in the Treasure Valley. Peterson Autoplex on Fairview will offer Toyota, Lexus, Chrysler, Jeep, Kia and BMW vehicles. The Peterson Stampede dealership in Nampa offers Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep vehicles. Chevrolet allows only one franchise in a market so this was a great opportunity for Peterson.
- The U.S. Department of Labor approved a National Emergency Grant for \$800,000 to \$2 million to help the 1,100 workers laid off by Micron Technology this summer. The federal grant will provide workers with a wide array of assistance such as relocation subsidies and job training.
- There is a new call center in the area – Dial 411. It plans to hire 300 workers by next year. It is a call center version of the yellow pages.

#### **BOISE COUNTY**

- South Fork Landing development in Garden Valley has sold 60 cabins and lots for a total of \$20.8 million.

#### **CANYON COUNTY**

- Fashionz opened recently in Caldwell. The store sells clothing for men and women.
- Vallivue School District and the city of Nampa have agreed to amend the city urban renewal plan so downtown revitalization projects do not take future property tax revenue away from the school district. The urban renewal district will rebate to the school district the tax revenues it would otherwise receive. The city also plans to return funds to the Nampa School District. The urban renewal district includes portions of both school districts.

- D. L. Evans Bank recently opened a second location in Nampa. The new bank is located on Caldwell Boulevard.
- Friendly Flooring and Much More LLC opened in September in Caldwell. The business provides carpet, tile, wood, vinyl, counter tops, cabinets and granite among other surfaces.
- Knipe Land Company Inc., a 63-year-old Idaho real estate company founded in Nampa, has formed subsidiary Knipe Land North LLC. The new company specializes in timbered parcels, timbered building sites and recreational and timbered hunting and fishing properties.
- MPC Corp. grew four times bigger with the purchase of Gateway's Professional Business Division. With the acquisition, MPC gains a larger portfolio of customers in the education, government and commercial sectors. The purchase will more than double the number of employees from 550 to 1,200. MPC plans to add 100 employees in support and service roles at its headquarters in Nampa. The purchase will allow the company to compete with giants like Dell and get better deals on materials and components. The acquisition includes a manufacturing site in Nashville and a call center in North Sioux City, S.D.
- Sky Ranch Business Center has another new tenant. Idaho Athletic Club opened its doors in August. The facility has exercise equipment, a pool, racquetball courts, a steam room, a sauna and a hot tub. The athletic club joins Thomas Jefferson Charter School as the second operating tenant in the development. Other planned tenants include BMC West, Medical Imaging Center and the Idaho Department of Labor.
- Syringa House doubled in size as it opened its new facility in late August. Syringa House in Nampa provides residential, therapeutic and educational services to troubled girls ages 11 to 18 and their families. The new 14,000-square-foot facility has 24 beds, double the 12 in the previous house.
- The Nampa Civic Center broke ground in August on a 5,500 square-foot expansion. The \$600,000 addition doubles the size of the existing dressing rooms, expands the stage, backstage and storage areas and increases public restrooms. The addition is expected to be completed in October 2008. The center hosts more than 200 performances annually along with 700 other scheduled events.
- The Nampa/Caldwell Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Committee sponsored a two-day Treasure Valley Ag Tour to give legislators an in-depth understanding of agriculture and the issues facing the region. Participants learned about biodiesel production,

water issues, production and distribution of feed, new Homeland Security regulations and development and farm labor issues. Stops on the tour included Symms' Fruit Ranch, Christensen Farms mint still, Beranna Dairy, Idaho Power, Amalgamated Sugar Co.'s sugar beet field, Simplot Potato Plant and the University of Idaho's Food Technology Center.

- The University of Idaho opened its Caldwell complex recently. The site already had two buildings – the Caldwell Business and Technology Incubator and the Food Technology Center. A new building completed in November houses the university's research and extension center. This center focuses on range economics, beef production, dairy production and 4-H and computer support.
- Treasure Valley Market Place has several new tenants – Clearwire, Hairmasters, Simmer Chiropractic and Tully's Coffee.

#### **ELMORE COUNTY**

- Mona Boutique in Mountain Home is a one-stop shop for all women and their clothing needs. The store opened in late August.
- Los Fuentes is now Los Primos. The restaurant opened under new ownership in mid-August. The food will continue to be Mexican but with a different style of cooking. Everything on the menu is home-made from the meat, sauces, chorizo and tamales to the tortilla chips.
- The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Force Appreciation Day was held in Mountain Home on Sept. 8. The day is a special tribute to the men and women of the armed forces and in particular those assigned to the Mountain Home Air Force Base. It draws more than 10,000 spectators each year who give a lift to the area's economy.
- The LaBella Salon leased retail space in Mountain Home recently.

#### **OWYHEE COUNTY**

- A \$23 million plan was approved recently by Congress to restore high desert land scorched by the Murphy complex fire. The fire destroyed more than 1,000 square miles of sage and grass needed for wildlife and cattle. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management plans to spend \$9 million on both protective fencing and repairs to permanent fences that divide cattle grazing allotments. Immediately set aside was \$11.4 million for grass seed to replant a huge area to prevent soil erosion. The burned area should be seeded with native and other grasses to prevent further spread of alien weeds like highly flammable cheat grass.

#### **PAYETTE COUNTY**

- The Big Nasty returned to Payette County. The Northwest's only national motorcycle hill climb is expected draw more than 12,000 spectators and 300 participants, making it Idaho's single largest motorcycle event.
- All Star Gymnastics Dance and Cheer has been sold. The new business will keep its previous name, but Anna Avera is the new owner. All Star Gymnastics serves children ages 3 and up.
- Base to Final LLC will lease 10,000 square feet from the city of Payette to build a nine plane hanger. The building will be owned by individuals using the hangers. The company says its main purpose is to help the airport prosper.
- Fruitland passed a \$14.8 million bond to build a new water treatment center that should be completed in 2010.
- Maverick in Payette recently held its grand opening.

#### **VALLEY COUNTY**

- The Roxy in Cascade has new owners. Jason and Trisha Speer bought the theater to save it. They want to make some improvements and plan to offer special promotions to draw from Donnelly and McCall. They want a place for kids to hang out and provide family entertainment. The theater's sound system will be converted to digital in the fall and a few rows of stadium seating will be added. They also hope to present live entertainment – comedians, bands and stage performances.

#### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

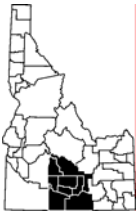
- Citizens gathered in Weiser to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the train depot. The event was not only a chance to commemorate the centennial of the depot but to promote the restoration of the depot building.

#### **BOISE AND VALLEY COUNTIES**

- While it isn't quite time to dust off the skis and snowboards, the southwestern Idaho resorts are getting ready for the winter season. All have seen their first snow. Most need two to three feet to open. But at least snow has started to fall so get out the wax.

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# South Central Idaho News

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

Back-to-school shopping contributed to increased hiring, particularly at clothing and big box retailers, driving the unemployment rate below 2 percent in August for the first time in the Twin Falls-Jerome metro area. Schools were also rehiring staff and replacing paraprofessionals and non-certified staff in administrative and maintenance occupations.

As harvest approaches, the food processing segment of south central Idaho gears up to handle the truckloads of sugar beets, corn and a favorite vegetable, the potato, that descend on some of the area's largest employers. While the increased activity means many seasonal workers are hired, they will later be looking for other work after the harvest season is complete.

With the population aging, problems are developing in some specific occupations. Retirements are hitting the teaching profession hard, and replacing the retirees is challenging. High school graduates are facing choices like pursuing a dental hygienist career with starting pay at \$34.78 an hour or teaching at entry pay of \$18.36 an hour. Some of the districts in south central Idaho have to do without new teachers, and class sizes are exceeding 30 students. That makes class management more of a priority than curriculum and individual student development.

### BLAINE COUNTY

- Ketchum hosted the Kick Ash Bash in late September to benefit the Sun Valley/Ketchum Volunteer Firefighters Association, which represents all fire departments in the Wood River Valley, and the non-profit national Wildland Firefighters Foundation. This sold-out event included the Steve Miller Band, Carole King and

South Central Idaho Table 1: Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment—Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Aug 2007*	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,560	48,950	50,430	1.2	-1.7
Unemployment	960	970	1,320	-1.0	-27.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	2.0	2.6		
Total Employment	48,600	47,980	49,110	1.3	-1.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,700	49,180	51,080	1.1	-2.7
Unemployment	850	850	1,480	0.0	-42.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.7	1.7	2.9		
Total Employment	48,850	48,330	49,600	1.1	-1.5
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	41,650	40,700	39,850	2.3	4.5
<b>Goods-Providing Industries</b>	8,250	7,890	7,620	4.6	8.3
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,660	2,640	2,480	0.8	7.3
Manufacturing	5,560	5,220	5,110	6.5	8.8
Food Manufacturing	3,280	2,990	2,970	9.7	10.4
Other Manufacturing	2,280	2,230	2,140	2.2	6.5
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	33,400	32,810	32,230	1.8	3.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,240	10,070	9,700	1.7	5.6
Wholesale Trade	2,010	2,010	1,890	0.0	6.3
Retail Trade	6,060	6,000	5,850	1.0	3.6
Utilities	150	150	170	0.0	-11.8
Transportation & Warehousing	2,020	1,910	1,790	5.8	12.8
Information	680	680	650	0.0	4.6
Financial Activities	1,690	1,690	1,720	0.0	-1.7
Professional & Business Services	5,170	4,890	5,250	5.7	-1.5
Educational & Health Services	5,330	5,320	5,000	0.2	6.6
Leisure & Hospitality	3,360	3,320	3,310	1.2	1.5
Other Services	1,550	1,550	1,530	0.0	1.3
Government Education	2,940	2,800	2,600	5.0	13.1
Government Administration	2,440	2,490	2,470	-2.0	-1.2

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

the Bruce Willis Blues Band. Local restaurants provided food booths during the event.

### JEROME

- Lizzy's has crossed the bridge and expanded into the Jerome market. It is located in the former Gina's Bistro & Gifts, giving it space to provide a broader menu with breakfast, espresso, lunch



and dinner offerings. Lizzy's will continue to operate its original store in Twin Falls, which includes a gift boutique, espresso and lunches.

- Another new restaurant in Jerome – Smokin' Cowboys – began its barbeque in a custom-designed trailer that includes, of course, a smoker. The menu includes brisket, pulled pork, spareribs and lamb from a local ranch. All of the meats are dry-rub seasoned and slow cooked over fruit wood and charcoal for up to 18 hours. After years of feeding everybody from firefighters to wedding parties to crowds at fairs and other events, Smokin' Cowboys is settling down complete with a liquor license at what used to be Papa Kelsey's.

#### **MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES**

- Franklin Building Supply recently added almost 15,000 square feet of new lumber sheds and expanded its paint department in response to growth in residential and commercial construction. The area is bucking the national trend because of affordable building and real estate costs.
- A + Design Embroidery and Screen Printing has moved into a larger building and purchased new, automated equipment that will enable large orders to be processed more efficiently and quickly.
- The Upper Crust Bakery and Grill atop Gossner Foods Magic Valley Chalet in Heyburn will open this fall, geared to casual dining. It will offer breakfast items, gourmet soup, salad and sandwiches on artisan bread. A sit-down dinner menu is being considered for the weekends. The loft restaurant can seat up to 126, and there is some seasonal, outdoor dining available.
- The Cassia County Commission approved two Concentrated Animal Feed Operations permits in September — a feedlot in Malta and a dairy expansion in Declo. There has been a lull in permit applications in Cassia County since early spring. The feedlot in Malta is a new operation with 1,400 animal units approved on the edge of a buffer zone separating rural land from agricultural land. The dairy expansion in Declo increases animal units to 6,120.
- The Pet Shop has some interesting species for Rupert residents including black scorpions, tarantulas, turtles, snakes, gecko lizards and a 5-foot

long iguana, which can be leash trained. It offers pet birds and unique tropical fish along with pet foods.

- Alaska's Best restaurant has moved just a half block from its former location in Rupert. The menu will retain most of its seafood offerings but will also offer prime rib sandwiches au jus.
- Welcome Home Plaza has three businesses in its Olsen Chiropractic building. They include a photography and digital photography service, a vinyl lettering business and a house cleaning business.



The Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho.  
*Photo courtesy of College of Southern Idaho.*

#### **TWIN FALLS**

- The College of Southern Idaho has announced a 6 percent increase in fall enrollment to 7,200. Surprisingly, the increase is attributed to enrollment in academic programs versus the professional technical emphasis traditionally touted by the college. And much progress has been made in the dual enrollment program in which the school partners with three dozen high schools in the local area to offer college credits to their students. Many students are enrolled in courses such as Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Library Sciences and Business.

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# Southeastern Idaho News

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA & POWER COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

Seasonal layoffs in food processing during August and contract expirations at telephone call centers in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area were more than offset by increased government employment in road construction, recreation and firefighting and bigger payrolls in leisure and hospitality because of new motels and restaurants opening. Construction jobs remained ahead of last year's number, significant since it counters the state and the nation. The 240-person increase in unemployment was the result of the summer layoff at the Con Agra plant in American Falls. The region overall had fewer people without jobs in August than a year earlier as shown in Southeastern Idaho Table 2. The civilian labor force may have contracted because workers left the area to stay with the harvest. Exceptionally hot weather and low irrigation supplies pushed most harvest activities ahead of schedule, and grain harvest crews were out of the area before mid-August.

## RESEARCH EXPANDS IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

Research is beginning to be recognized in eastern Idaho as an industry and an economic stimulus.

Idaho State University has long been known for its outstanding educational programs, most notably in pharmacy and business, but it seems recently that the school has become recognized for its out-

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Aug 2007*	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,460	44,160	45,030	0.7	-1.3
Unemployment	1,310	1,070	1,800	22.4	-27.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.4	4.0		
Total Employment	43,150	43,090	43,230	0.1	-0.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,990	44,500	43,630	-1.1	0.8
Unemployment	1,080	880	1,670	22.7	-35.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	2.0	3.8		
Total Employment	42,910	43,620	41,960	-1.6	2.3
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>					
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	6,130	6,120	5,940	0.2	3.2
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,170	2,130	2,130	1.9	1.9
Manufacturing	3,930	3,960	3,780	-0.8	4.0
Food Manufacturing	1,260	1,330	1,230	-5.3	2.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	170	180	170	-5.6	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	300	300	260	0.0	15.4
Other Manufacturing	2,200	2,160	2,120	1.9	3.8
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	33,630	33,550	32,910	0.2	2.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,410	7,430	7,460	-0.3	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	1,360	1,360	1,390	0.0	-2.2
Retail Trade	4,680	4,710	4,590	-0.6	2.0
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,320	1,310	1,430	0.8	-7.7
Information	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	2,290	2,270	2,140	0.9	7.0
Professional & Business Services	5,630	5,730	5,420	-1.7	3.9
Educational & Health Services	3,410	3,390	3,180	0.6	7.2
Leisure & Hospitality	3,480	3,430	3,700	1.5	-5.9
Other Services	1,200	1,190	1,160	0.8	3.4
Government Education	4,170	4,190	4,520	-0.5	-7.7
Government Administration	5,340	5,220	4,630	2.3	15.3

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeastern Idaho Table 2: August 2006 to August 2007 Comparison of Number Unemployed by County

County/Area	August 2006	August 2007
Bannock	1,352	941
Bear Lake	82	61
Bingham	474	293
Caribou	133	89
Franklin	166	90
Oneida	42	29
Power	443	285
State of Idaho	25,223	17,890

standing research. The hiring of Arthur Vailas as university president added momentum. Idaho State University's nine research institutes and centers are tackling some of life's most important challenges. This research stimulates the economic life of the community and region and perhaps even the nation and world. In addition to providing a job for those directly involved in doing the research, there are many related jobs. The research firm used by the Idaho Department of Labor for evaluating the affect of new jobs on the economy, Economic Modeling Specialist Inc., projects a job multiplier of 2.92. That means every new research job in eastern Idaho creates an additional 1.92 jobs. EMSI also forecasts a sales multiplier of 1.98 meaning that sales of the products affected by

the research or workers related to the research will nearly double the amount spent by each research related job.

The university and the Idaho National Laboratory have had many research projects under way for some time. Some have resulted in knowledge being transferred to the private sector for additional development and commercialization, which further contributes to the economy. Recently recognized projects include the university's Idaho Accelerator Center's development of methods to recognize and neutralize terrorist-related activities, biomedical analysis in genome science, assessment of highway pavement design to extend its life, determination of the ecological dynamics and biodiversity as applied to the Aleutian area of Alaska and development of a robotic hand to help veterans with hand amputations.

## COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

### **BANNOCK COUNTY**

- The Bannock County Fair Board is planning to build a covered facility at the North County Fairgrounds, probably a 150-by-300-foot canvas covered steel framed building costing \$500,000 although a larger metal building is being considered as well.
- Construction of Hoku Materials appears to be on schedule for completion in late 2008. JH Kelly, a Longview, Wash., general contractor has been selected to build the new facility. A subsidiary of The Shaw Group will provide engineering, procurement and other services for the project. News reports indicate the company receives weekly orders from Asia businesses wanting more polysilicon. Currently Hoku has seven employees and expects to hire three or four more to provide administrative and technical support in planning and building the plant. The work force should grow to about 200 when the plant is operational.
- Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has supported assessing the feasibility of establishing a medical school in Idaho. Idaho State University President Arthur Valais believes much of the infrastructure is already in place for a "virtual" medical school relying on the existing network of hospitals to train the state's next generation of medical professionals.
- Property valuations in Bannock County increased 11.6 percent from 2006 to 2007, according to the assessment records released by Bannock County Assessor JoLynn Anderson. The increase in property values is expected to lead to a decrease in the county's tax levy.
- The local economy benefited from both the Pocatello Marathon and the State Senior Summer Games. The Senior Games had 850 entrants, dou-

ble the number last year, and the Pocatello Marathon had nearly 850 entrants, about 200 more than in 2006.

- Gold's Gym has broken ground for a new gym in Pocatello, and construction of Ashley Home Furnishing in Pocatello Square is on schedule.
- The rebirth of Pocatello's warehouse district got a boost with the long awaited opening of Kinport Junction Warehouse, which houses A Fish off the Old Block, Pocatello Food Co-op, James Barrett Pilates & Cycling, Kinport Coffee, Spoil Me Day Spa, Senang Wine Bar and Tapas Bistro. Also drawn to the area has been Don Aslett's cleaning museum and warehouse. The museum will include displays of novelty janitorial equipment and an array of historical vacuums.
- The beginning of fall classes at Idaho State University also marked the opening of the Rendezvous Center on campus. The 255,000-square-foot center includes 50 classrooms, several apartment style rooms for students, a large lecture hall and a large social area. There are also plans for a planetarium. The building cost \$43.5 million and is the only one of its type in Idaho.
- A new Taco Bell, replacing one demolished in June, opened in Pocatello. It seats 90 and is owned by Craig and Nancy Moss, who have five other Taco Bells in Idaho.
- The new \$1.2 million long- and short-term parking lots at the Pocatello Airport are open. There will be no charge for parking since the Federal Aviation Administration helped finance the project. Lighting and sidewalks are still to be added.
- The Pocatello City Council will pay just over \$1 million to build a storm water drainage system and wetlands area, which will filter storm water runoff before it flows into the Portneuf River. Construction could begin as soon as mid-October.
- A Utah-based steel fabrication company has expressed interest in opening a plant at the Pocatello Airport. Petersen Inc. is a custom steel manufacturing, machining and warehousing company based in Ogden. It wants to negotiate a deal with Pocatello Development Partners and the airport management for space at the airport's business park. The company also announced a job fair Oct. 4-5 at the Pocatello Ameritel.

### **BEAR LAKE COUNTY**

- The county's first ever Parade of Homes was held in Bear Lake area. Eleven homes were included, displaying the craftsmanship of the contractors and subcontractors.

- Hennings Salvage and Recycling, operated by Scott and Lorie Hennings, opened in late August. In addition to salvage and recycling, the company will rent bins for construction and large cleanup projects.
- Bear Lake Memorial Hospital welcomed Dr. Uashu Thakur to the staff on Sept. 1. Thakur is a graduate of Bombay and Tulane Universities. He is board certified in internal medicine, nephrology, critical care and treatment of hypertension. The hospital board has also introduced a cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation service.
- Construction is under way on Bear Lake Stone's building in the Montpelier Industrial Park. Mayor Reed Peterson indicated other businesses may soon follow. He also speculated that Ryan Shaul may move his truss plant to the industrial park if plant expansion plans go forward.
- The first State of Bear Lake Conference was held Aug. 31 in Fish Haven. About 150 people from the region discussed how the area could grow and prosper and still maintain the rural life style many residents desire. Several contractors spoke about what they are doing to preserve the areas they are developing.
- As anticipated, the enrollment in the Bear Lake School District declined from 1,233 students a year ago to 1,160 this year and will affect state funding. Because the drop was anticipated, voters approved a \$500,000 property tax increase for this year to maintain budget levels, but concern remains about the district's future.

#### **BINGHAM COUNTY**

- A grant from the Rural Areas Enterprise Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments will finance loans for Indian-owned business on the Fort Hall Reservation. The first grant of this type in Idaho will be used to set up a \$50,000 micro-loan program to fund small loans of \$500 to \$5,000 and to provide business planning assistance through the Snake River Business Association.
- The Eastern Idaho State Fair has always been recognized as one of the best in the Northwest. In addition to carnival rides, the fair features more than 250 commercial vendors, 60 food vendors and hundreds of live animal exhibits. Rain caused delays and cancellation of some horse races this year, but attendance was nearly 200,000 at the early September event. Carnival and concession revenues were higher than last year.
- Ground was broken for the \$60 million Logite waste treatment plant. The plant will convert solid waste into biofuel and building material using steam reformer technology. The county agreed to supply

30,000 tons of waste per year under a 20-year contract, paying \$55,000 a month for waste disposal but earning a 10 percent royalty on any material sales Logite has. The contract stipulates that Logite will provide free ethanol to the county or pay a fuel allowance of \$33,330 monthly.

- Shoshone-Bannock tribal leaders and Bingham County administrators have formed the Fort Hall Town Site Task Force to clean up abandoned cars, piles of debris and buildings in poor condition on the reservation. These areas are considered unsafe because of fire and vandalism.
- Fort Hall has a new radio station operated by an unpaid staff of disc jockeys ranging in age from 11 to 20. The station features an eclectic mix of programming airing daily from 6 a.m. to midnight. Signal transmission does not extend beyond the reservation boundaries. The station wants to promote and develop positive attitudes among its listeners.
- Neil Morgan, a well respected surveyor, has partnered with geomatics firm Dioptra, which specializes in land planning, mapping, designing subdivisions, conducting control surveys and finding boundaries. The firm is affiliated with Xcell Engineering and licensed civil engineer Paul Bastian.
- Ridgeline Energy LLC wants to expand its wind farm in Bingham County by 300 turbines. Only six of the firm's current windmills are in Bingham County. If approved, the additional windmills would stretch for 17 miles along the top of the Blackfoot Mountains. According to the application, the turbines will be installed in several phases.
- Gold's Gym in Blackfoot opened Aug. 25. Manager Nathan Ball owns the franchise with his family. The 22 employees were carefully chosen for their qualifications as personal trainers. Child care is available.
- Sartori Foods offered tours of its Blackfoot cheese processing plant following \$3 million in upgrades. The company received \$520,000 in grants from the state and partnered with the city of Blackfoot for improvements to sewer and waste water systems. The improvements enabled Sartori to maintain its payroll and it plans to hire 16 more workers.

#### **CARIBOU COUNTY**

- Newly refurbished rooms and kitchenettes await travelers and hunters in Bancroft at the remodeled Gem Motel.
- Negotiations are under way with Rhodia LLC to assess remediation of the Wooley Valley Mine in Caribou County. It is the latest of the mining site remediation projects that the U.S. Forest Service is overseeing in the county.

- A community review of Soda Springs identified confusion about the city's direction in terms of growth and development. While the area supports excellent heavy industry, technology and infrastructure need upgrading, and tourism should be more vigorously promoted. The review, which noted the residents' strong work ethic, suggested the area might want to attract value-added agriculture industries, light manufacturing, geothermal and a micro-brewery. The complete 80-page report should be delivered in the next couple of months.
- Mountain Island Energy General Manager Mitch Hart updated the Caribou Sun on the company's proposed Soda Springs Power Project. The company is a subsidiary of Terra Systems and develops energy and carbon-based projects in Idaho and neighboring states. In 2005 it opened an office in Soda Springs because their studies indicated the area would be a prime location for advanced clean coal-based power generation. That assessment was based on the strategic location of coal, railroads, high voltage power lines, water and a highly trained work force. Plans slowed when the Idaho Legislature imposed a two-year moratorium on coal-fired plants. The moratorium expires in April 2008, and Mountain Island Energy wants public opinion on its project for consideration by the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality.

#### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

- Direct Communications of Rockland is installing fiber optic lines from Downey to Preston, which will provide Franklin County residents quicker loading of Web pages and e-mail, better Internet accessibility, improved ability to download video and music and more efficient delivery of large attachments.
- Dr. Jason Welker opened a chiropractic office in the Preston area after operating in Hyde Park, Utah, for seven years. He specializes in manipulation, acupuncture, deep tissue work, electrical therapy and ultrasound treatments.
- Clifton residents are debating their zoning and comprehensive plan. Of most concern is the size of subdivision lots and restrictions on businesses allowed in the city.
- Six major commercial projects in Franklin County this year created new construction jobs and will likely add additional jobs in business operations. The Franklin County Grain Growers is building a 7,200-square-foot retail store next to its current facility. ALCO Department Stores has started work on a \$1.5 million, 25,000-square-foot retail facility. Trails West Manufacturing is spending \$700,000 for a 33,000-square-foot plant. Chateau Mill and Supply has nearly completed a \$500,000, 12,000-square-foot cabinet manufacturing plant. Valley Implement is constructing

a 25,000-square-foot addition to its building on U.S. Highway 91 at a cost of \$800,000. Earlier this summer a new \$2 million LaTienda convenience store and café with fuel storage and distribution tanks was built in Franklin.

- In addition to the privately funded projects, the Preston School District is building a \$3.2 million, 60,000-square-foot gymnasium and classroom complex. A \$1.2 million auditorium being built in Dayton has been ongoing and is expected to cost at least \$1.2 million.
- The building moratorium imposed late last year, imposed until development guidelines were written for subdivision applications in unincorporated Franklin County, has been lifted. Preliminary paperwork on four small subdivisions has already been filed, and paperwork for a 70-lot subdivision is expected to be filed soon.

#### **ONEIDA COUNTY**

- Sysco Corp. has named Moss Trucking one of the best small fleet carriers in the nation. Sysco is the largest food service distributor in North America and is known globally for selling, marketing and distributing food products. Moss Trucking is located in Malad and has been owned and operated for 25 years by Ken and Jim Moss. The company has been associated with Sysco for over 10 years.
- Oneida County Hospital installed a new digital imaging system, which eliminates the need for film when doing medical imaging. The Internet-based system allows doctors outside the area to view images, including those developed with ultrasound equipment.
- The Oneida County Hospital Board is continuing to study the feasibility of a new hospital and medical complex. The estimated cost is \$15 million to \$17 million.

#### **POWER COUNTY**

- American Falls is renovating the Marina at American Falls Reservoir this fall. In addition to extensive riprap work, the facility will be enlarged. There will be 12 new camp sites and a new bathroom with showers. Most of the \$500,000 cost is being covered through grants.
- Officials of Southeast Idaho Energy held an open house on the company's plans for an advanced coal gasification plant northwest of American Falls. John Burk said his company wants to be a good neighbor and a positive addition to the community. The permitting process for phase one of the project has begun with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

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# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## WAGE INFORMATION RELEASED FOR IDAHO FALLS MSA

For the first time, specific wage information is available for the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Bonneville and Jefferson counties. Until 2007 the annual wage survey lumped the Idaho Falls area in with the 14 other counties of eastern and southeastern Idaho except for Bannock County and Pocatello. The 2007 wage data also splits out the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Bannock and Power counties. Information for the 12 counties not in either metropolitan area is included under southeastern Idaho excluding Pocatello MSA and Idaho Falls MSA.

The wage data consists of detailed occupational titles, the estimated employment in that occupation, average wage, median wage, entry wage and a middle wage range. The wage data is gleaned from businesses selected from throughout the state. Since the Idaho Falls metro area is now listed separately, the wages better reflect what people make in the urban area, and separating out the other 12 counties better reflects rural wages. However, this section includes much of the Idaho National Laboratory since most of its facilities are in Butte County. Therefore, employers need to take that into account if they use the occupational categories in the rural counties. That has always been the case, but now Bonneville, Jefferson and Power counties have been extracted.

The official publication, Occupational Employment and Wage Report, also includes sections on the Boise-Nampa, Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston metropolitan areas, the northern, southwestern and south central counties outside those urban areas and the

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Aug 2007*	Jul 2007	Aug 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	57,990	58,290	56,130	-0.5	3.3
Unemployment	1,070	1,070	1,310	0.0	-18.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.8%	1.8%	2.3%		
Total Employment	56,920	57,210	54,820	-0.5	3.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	58,820	59,640	57,290	-1.4	2.7
Unemployment	920	870	1,460	5.7	-37.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.6%	1.5%	2.5%		
Total Employment	57,890	58,770	55,830	-1.5	3.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,410	52,240	50,940	0.3	2.9
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,530	8,510	8,400	0.2	1.5
Natural Resources & Mining	20	10	10	100.0	100.0
Construction	5,100	5,060	4,980	0.8	2.4
Manufacturing	3,410	3,440	3,410	-0.9	0.0
Food Manufacturing	970	1,030	970	-5.8	0.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	660	330	260	100.0	153.8
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	170	0.0	-11.8
Other Manufacturing	1,630	1,930	2,010	-15.5	-18.9
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,880	43,730	42,540	0.3	3.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,730	13,750	13,500	-0.1	1.7
Wholesale Trade	3,930	3,970	4,010	-1.0	-2.0
Retail Trade	7,930	7,890	7,700	0.5	3.0
Utilities	70	70	60	0.0	16.7
Transportation	1,800	1,820	1,730	-1.1	4.0
Information	1,230	1,240	1,260	-0.8	-2.4
Financial Activities	2,310	2,310	2,200	0.0	5.0
Professional & Business Services	6,220	6,110	5,790	1.8	7.4
Educational & Health Services	7,310	7,230	6,880	1.1	6.3
Leisure & Hospitality	4,700	4,630	4,730	1.5	-0.6
Other Services	1,970	1,980	2,090	-0.5	-5.7
Government Education	2,670	2,690	2,580	-0.7	3.5
Government Administration	3,740	3,790	3,510	-1.3	6.6

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

entire state. It can be found on the Web at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov). Scroll down the home page below the image of the report, and the data tables can be accessed in PDF or Excel format. There are also cross regional tables for comparing occupations throughout the state. More information on the entire report starts on page 3 of this newsletter.

The Standard Occupational Classification Code assigned to every occupation is the same nationwide so comparison can be made. Other state and national information can be found by scrolling down

to Related Links on the bottom right side of the page. Look for National Wage Data and Data for Other States.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Retailer Fred Meyers has filed plans to build a five-pump fuel stop and kiosk in the parking lot of the shopping center it occupies in Idaho Falls. It will probably be similar to the gas station at Smith's Grocery since both Smith's and Fred Meyers are owned by the Kroger Co.
- Bonneville County received a \$1.24 million state grant to build treatment rooms and office space at the county jail. Bonneville County's proposal was one of four considered from throughout the state. The grant comes from money appropriated by the Idaho Legislature for a community based multi-agency project focused on reducing incarceration rates by addressing issues that commonly land people in jail. The additional space will support substance abuse and mental health treatment programs and will serve 10 eastern Idaho counties. Treatment will begin in fall 2008.

### ADISON COUNTY

- The Rexburg Idaho temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which has been under construction for over two years, is nearing completion. The First Presidency of the church announced the public is invited to an open house from Dec. 29 to Jan. 26, excluding Sundays. The temple will be dedicated Feb. 3 in four sessions. The temple is located at the corner of 7th South and 2nd East in the Rexburg foothills.



The nearly-completed Rexburg temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints plans an open house from Dec. 29 to Jan. 26.

- Rexburg has a new city program to turn trash into money. The city partnered with Barney's Towing and Recovery to provide recycling bins. In fact, Barney's bought a bailer and signed a contract with a recycling broker to keep recycling services in the city rather than hauling the material to Idaho Falls. This way, garbage fees will be reduced and Barney's will pay the city for its recyclables with the extra money going to the city's parks and recreation program. Since the bins have been placed, the city is getting larger than anticipated response and has noticed that many other counties are using the bins. The partnership is quite pleased with the overall effect. The bins are located in front of City Hall, Wal-Mart, Albertsons and Broulim's.

### LEMHI COUNTY

- An historic mine in Shoup, 40 miles northwest of Salmon, was destroyed by fire. The Gold Hill Mine, a tourist attraction that served as a popular stopping point for river recreationists was completely burned in a 10-acre fire, but a mock mine entrance was not touched. The mine once brought about 600 residents to the area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century at the height of the gold rush. Shoup now has only a handful of residents with its anchor, the Shoup Store, known for its homemade milkshakes. Owners John and Patty Hulihan did not lose their house in the fire, even though it was damaged a week later by a boulder tumbling down the mountain. The house can be salvaged.

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## *Idaho's Hot Construction Growth Beginning to Cool*

Rampant home construction was the major contributor to Idaho's strong economic expansion following the national recession in 2001, and that sector's slowdown in 2007 is a sign that the state economy is stabilizing on the foundation laid over the past four years.

Construction of new housing units hit 20,000 between mid-2005 and mid-2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, a 3.4 percent increase from a year earlier to cap an amazing period of growth spurred not only by a rapidly rising population but a steady move to one- and two-person households.

It was the culmination of a remarkable run that saw new building values soar, construction payrolls skyrocket and home values escalate dramatically.

From 2003 through 2006, over 60,000 housing permits worth \$9 billion were issued statewide, fully two-thirds of new construction value for those four years. Construction payrolls exceeded 52,000, rising 43 percent to rank second only to Nevada. One of every five new jobs created in Idaho during that post-recession period was in construction.

The average value of new housing jumped significantly from \$118,244 in 2003 to \$170,927 in 2006, according to statistics compiled by Wells Fargo Bank, and the value of all housing appreciated at one of the fastest rates in the nation. From April 2006 through March 2007, home values in Idaho appreciated at a quarterly average of 16 percent. Only Utah was higher at 16.8 percent.

Since 2002, Idaho's population has grown over 9 percent, and 77,000 of the 122,000 new residents came from other states or other countries. Only Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Georgia grew faster.

The 1990s left some pent up demand for housing. Population grew by nearly 29 percent while housing units increased less than 28 percent. Contractors addressed that since the recession, providing an increase of over 11 percent in housing while the population grew 9 percent.

Despite the steady migration from rural to urban Idaho — eight counties lost population from mid-2002 to mid-2006 — every county but Butte saw its housing stock increase, and the number of housing units in Butte County, which posted a population decline of 143, was essentially unchanged.

At the same time, Idaho baby boomers were becoming empty nesters, and with the number of younger families growing more slowly than the population overall housing density was slowly declining.

Average housing density has been dropping slightly every year, from 2.43 people per unit in mid-2002 to 2.38 last year. But in 2002 there were two counties — Madison, where Brigham Young University-Idaho is located, and Jefferson just north of Idaho Falls — with densities over three persons per unit and 12 counties below two per unit. In mid-2006, the Census Bureau found no counties over three and 13 below two.

Over that period, the percentage of Idaho housing units with more than two people dropped two full points to 39 percent, slightly lower than the national figure, and single-person households rose almost a full point to nearly 24 percent.

Had the density rate remained the same over the four years, 12,000 fewer housing units would have been built. At the average price over those four years of nearly \$150,000 per home, that's \$1.7 billion in construction activity attributable to fewer people living in more houses.

But there have been signs for some time that home construction was cooling off. Construction's quarterly contribution to total personal income declined steadily between April and December last year. It picked up during the winter quarter this year but was down again for the April-June quarter.

During the first half of 2007, residential building permits and their value were both off 33 percent from the first half of 2006, according to Wells Fargo, and construction values were lower in all four regions of the state. Demand for housing was easing up as well, based on appreciation rates. Homes in Idaho appreciated 8.4 percent this spring over spring 2006, but that compares to 20.6 percent appreciation in spring 2006 over spring 2005.

Commercial construction and remodeling have picked up some of the slack but not all. Construction jobs have been running below year-earlier levels since April, and the increases in March and April over 2006 were fractional.

But even with the slippage in construction — and construction remains a major part of the economy — the state has been generating an average of just under 1,000 jobs a month so far this year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This growth is following the population. Leading sectors include professional, technical, financial and administrative services, health care and restaurants and hotels.

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**FYI Table 1: Housing Units by County, 2006, 2005 and 2002**

County	2006			2005		2002			New Units 2002- 2006	% Change 2002- 2006
	Total	Density	Rank	Total	Density	Total	Density	Rank		
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>615,624</b>	<b>2.38</b>		<b>595,623</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>552,379</b>	<b>2.43</b>		<b>63,245</b>	<b>11.45%</b>
Ada	148,698	2.41	18	141,200	2.45	127,418	2.51	16	21,280	16.70%
Adams	2,356	1.48	41	2,282	1.55	2,090	1.66	39	266	12.73%
Bannock	31,180	2.52	12	30,635	2.54	29,585	2.60	11	1,595	5.39%
Bear Lake	3,585	1.72	36	3,581	1.73	3,408	1.85	35	177	5.19%
Benewah	4,333	2.16	27	4,312	2.13	4,278	2.10	29	55	1.29%
Bingham	15,251	2.89	4	15,024	2.91	14,546	2.91	4	705	4.85%
Blaine	14,140	1.52	40	13,857	1.53	12,977	1.56	41	1,163	8.96%
Boise	4,932	1.55	39	4,792	1.55	4,526	1.56	42	406	8.97%
Bonner	19,849	2.08	29	19,879	2.05	19,715	1.94	33	134	0.68%
Bonneville	36,119	2.62	9	34,663	2.65	31,761	2.68	8	4,358	13.72%
Boundary	4,433	2.44	16	4,303	2.45	4,180	2.39	21	253	6.05%
Butte	1,286	2.16	26	1,289	2.16	1,288	2.27	25	-2	-0.16%
Camas	736	1.48	42	705	1.51	638	1.63	40	98	15.36%
Canyon	63,585	2.73	6	60,524	2.73	52,646	2.76	5	10,939	20.78%
Caribou	3,256	2.15	28	3,245	2.19	3,230	2.24	27	26	0.80%
Cassia	8,087	2.64	7	8,047	2.66	7,948	2.71	7	139	1.75%
Clark	547	1.68	37	542	1.69	522	1.83	36	25	4.79%
Clearwater	4,289	1.94	33	4,267	1.95	4,232	2.00	32	57	1.35%
Custer	3,041	1.37	43	3,039	1.35	3,005	1.39	43	36	1.20%
Elmore	11,648	2.41	19	11,372	2.49	10,905	2.68	9	743	6.81%
Franklin	4,292	2.91	3	4,215	2.94	4,036	2.92	3	256	6.34%
Fremont	7,659	1.61	38	7,490	1.63	7,078	1.68	38	581	8.21%
Gem	6,624	2.50	14	6,426	2.53	6,109	2.55	14	515	8.43%
Gooding	5,909	2.44	17	5,834	2.47	5,656	2.52	15	253	4.47%
Idaho	7,742	2.04	31	7,759	2.02	7,595	2.04	31	147	1.94%
Jefferson	7,526	2.97	1	7,188	3.01	6,511	3.04	2	1,015	15.59%
Jerome	7,152	2.81	5	7,029	2.80	6,833	2.74	6	319	4.67%
Kootenai	57,191	2.30	23	54,648	2.34	49,354	2.32	23	7,837	15.88%
Latah	14,970	2.34	21	14,669	2.39	14,103	2.47	19	867	6.15%
Lemhi	4,421	1.79	35	4,367	1.80	4,243	1.83	37	178	4.20%
Lewis	1,813	2.07	30	1,814	2.06	1,804	2.06	30	9	0.50%
Lincoln	1,763	2.56	11	1,749	2.59	1,693	2.50	17	70	4.13%
Madison	10,758	2.92	2	10,490	2.97	8,057	3.58	1	2,701	33.52%
Minidoka	7,575	2.51	13	7,566	2.51	7,535	2.58	13	40	0.53%
Nez Perce	16,742	2.29	24	16,610	2.29	16,403	2.27	26	339	2.07%
Oneida	1,843	2.27	25	1,841	2.27	1,805	2.29	24	38	2.11%
Owyhee	4,750	2.34	22	4,679	2.36	4,552	2.40	20	198	4.35%
Payette	8,695	2.60	10	8,561	2.58	8,187	2.59	12	508	6.20%
Power	3,018	2.62	8	2,972	2.61	2,894	2.61	10	124	4.28%
Shoshone	7,086	1.86	34	7,088	1.84	7,068	1.85	34	18	0.25%
Teton	3,951	1.98	32	3,693	2.03	3,105	2.19	28	846	27.25%
Twin Falls	28,981	2.47	15	28,025	2.48	26,271	2.49	18	2,710	10.32%
Valley	9,547	0.93	44	9,132	0.91	8,417	0.90	44	1,130	13.43%
Washington	4,265	2.39	20	4,220	2.40	4,172	2.39	22	93	2.23%

Source: Population Division, US Census Bureau

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

**Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA):** Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.